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...VERILY...

This is the Xmas issue of **HM**. This is for all the people who saw one once but no one believed them. This is for all the people who have a fierce hairy animal living inside. Who believe it'll all turn out right after something important happens. Who wouldn't mind the answers, but find the questions hard to take. Who collect things. Who can never find anything where they put it down, and dream of a big lost and found somewhere.

This is for people who make up islands, planets, and houses with one of everything. Who would prefer color pictures in black and white and vice versa. Who see white river maps on printed pages. Who keep getting hints. Who can imagine giant dwarves.

This is for people who hum along in elevators. Who imagine being stranded with every busload. Who don't step on cracks. Make up their own words. Rehearse acceptance speeches. Put things in arbitrary piles.

This issue goes with our best wishes to the people who can't help it. Who suspect coincidences, and get the words **motor** and **mother** mixed up, who imagine everything on a different scale, vast mosquitoes and tabletop Alps.

Seasons Greetings to everyone who can't wait and wishes nothing were ever, really, over.

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Sindbad in The Land of the Jinn

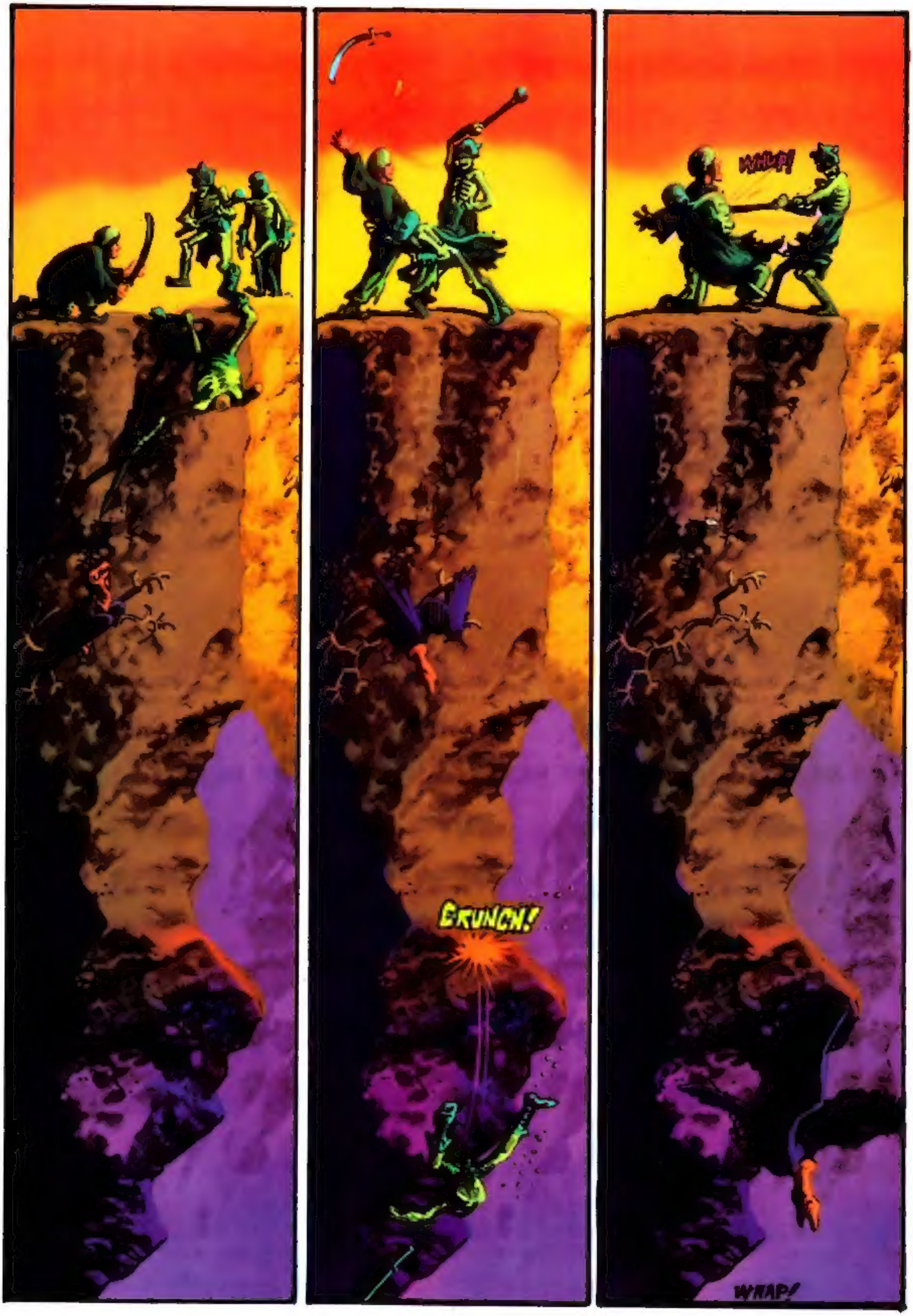
©1978 Richard Corben & Jan Strnad

THUK!

Aaaa!

VINK!
THWAK!

WHAK!
BHUP!


WHUP!
KRUNCH!
WRAP!

BARK
BARK
BARK

WHINE

to be continued

HITMAN

STARRING

THE KILLER ..... EDOUARDO HAMMER
GARY COOPER..... DIMITRI DODD
INSPECTOR BRIGGS ... PHILO VANCE
THE VICTIM .... DAVID FISHER

EPISODE NO. 1

THE THOUSANDTH CONTRACT

BY MOEBIUS

ARGH...

THE LITTLE POLISH BUGGH WHIP FACTORY: "NORTON ABBEY" NOT FAR FROM THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE

A QUIET SPOT

THIS IS IT... MY THOUSANDTH CONTRACT... I'M RICH NOW. I CAN RETIRE TO MY FARM IN MARYLAND

HEY!

?
OOO

I WONDER WHAT THIS THING IS...

AND THIS THREAD... WHAT THE HELL CAN IT BE USED FOR?

BIAM

A TRAP

YES, SHITFACE!... A TRAP INTO WHICH YOU HAVE FALLEN AND FROM WHICH IT WILL BE SOME TIME BEFORE YOU ESCAPE!..

HA HA

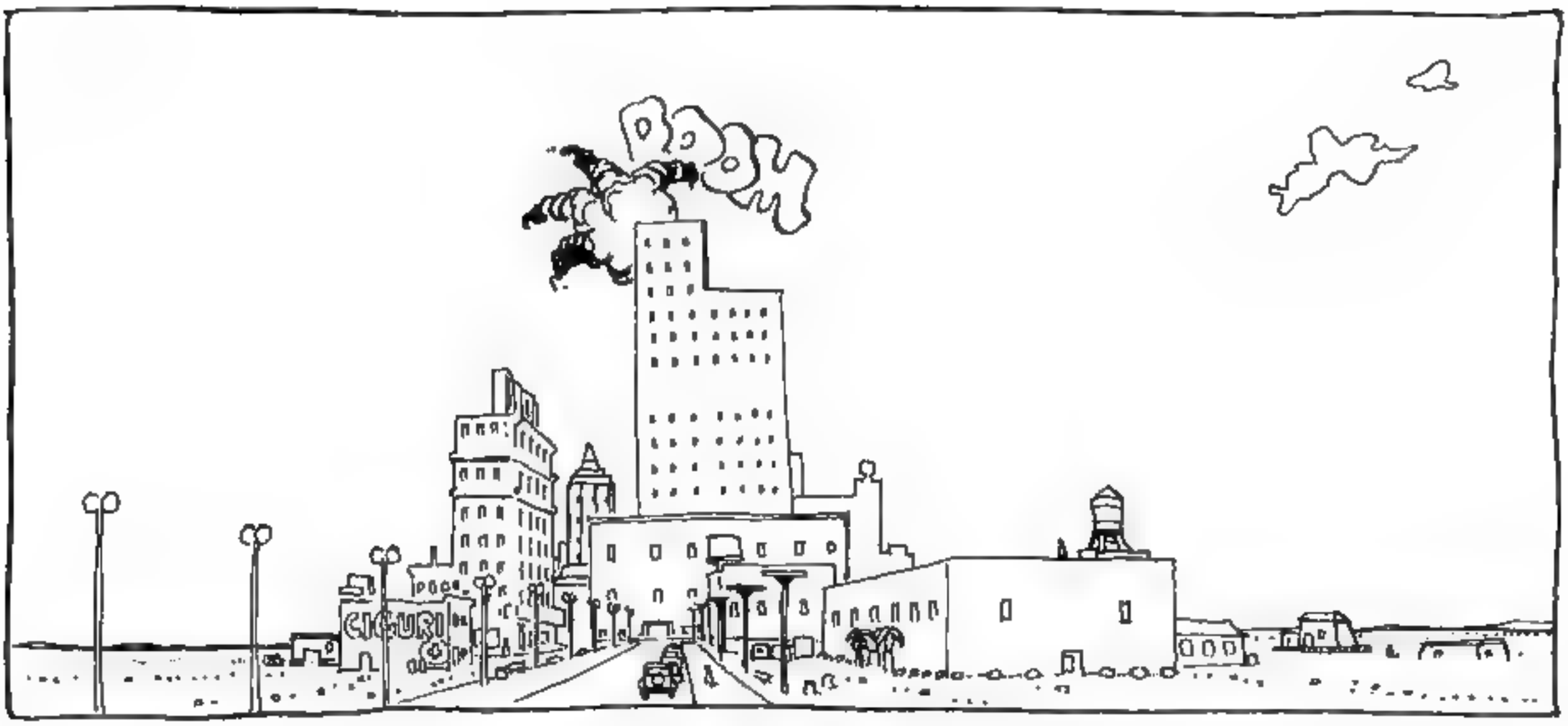
COME ON, MEN!... PUT THE CUFFS ON HIM

INSPECTOR BRIGGS! I WILL AVENGE MYSELF

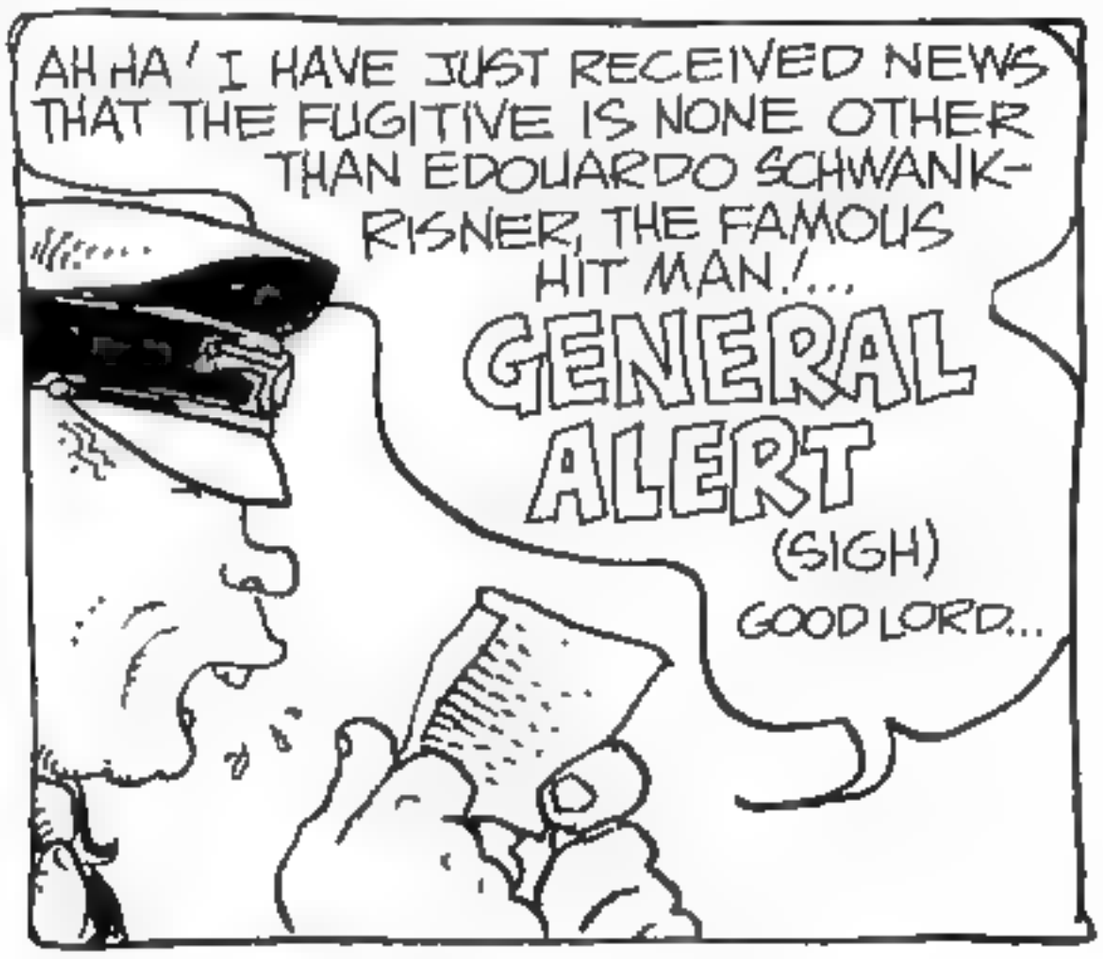
ENOUGH THREATS, EDOUARDO!... YOU TWO, TAKE HIM AWAY

AND TWO YEARS LATER, IN THE MOST TERRIBLE CELL IN THAT FAMOUS PENITENTIARY, ROLLER PALMITAS (ARIZ.)

THAT'S THAT!... MY PLAN IS READY AT LAST, DOWN TO THE LAST DETAIL


BOOM
CIGURU

ALERT! ALERT! EXPLOSION ON THE 22ND LEVEL... IT'S A BREAKOUT!
VUE PORN
CLAUSTROPHOBIA
THEY WERE BORN TO LOSE


AH HA! I HAVE JUST RECEIVED NEWS THAT THE FUGITIVE IS NONE OTHER THAN EDOUARDO SCHWANK-RISNER, THE FAMOUS HIT MAN!...
GENERAL ALERT
(SIGH)
GOOD LORD...

I PLAN TO UNDERTAKE A HUGE REVENGE PROGRAM AGAINST SOCIETY... A VERITABLE BUREAUCRACY OF CRIME...
GRR

HITMAN

EPISODE No. 2: THE FURY OF VENGEANCE

WITH IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:

SANDRA RAMISKEY ..
DAVID BURNETT... ALFONZO MORAVIA...
ERIC SLOAMANSON...ETHAN KANFER..
NICK KEMPF... ALEX SANGOWICZ...
HUGO DELRUE

NO ONE

LATER. IN THE EAST END

THE ANTI-HERO OF THIS STORY SEIZES THE MOMENT AND FURTIVELY ENTERS THE LUXURIOUS FIRST BANK OF MONTANA... HE THINKS HE WILL NOT BE RECOGNIZED, THANKS TO HIS MASK... HIS RAINCOAT IS GREEN, HIS HAT BLUE, AND HIS TROUSERS BEIGE

STICK 'EM UP... CREEP!

DISCONTENTED EMPLOYEES

THE DAY AFTER THE HEIST

TOODLY-AH WAW WAW... THAT'S MY BABY!..

LOVE THAT JAZZ

..IN PALLADIN VILLAGE

ÉDOUARDO!

WHO?!

WHAT?!

IT WAS INSPECTOR BRIGGS

EDOUARDO, OLD CHAP, WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE.. I LIVE TWO BLOCKS AWAY.. COME ON OVER AND HAVE A "SNORT"

INSPECTOR BRIGGS!

WELL! WELL!

...I LEFT THE POLICE FORCE TO START A LITTLE BUSINESS IMPORTING DANISH PLAYPENS

HOW DID YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

LATER AT BRIGGS'S PLACE.

A GOOD QUESTION!. I'LL TELL YOU, THEN. TWO YEARS AGO IN BOSTON, A STRANGE MURDER WAS COMMITTED IN THE DISTRICT WHERE I WAS IN CHARGE..

THE INVESTIGATION LED MY DEPUTY AND ME TO A CERTAIN ABANDONED MINE AT THE DEPTHS OF THE FAMOUS DEATH VALLEY...

MŒBIUS

UMM..

HUM

KOFF

HAK

A STRANGE IDOL, PROBABLY OF LATIN-AMERICAN ORIGIN, BLOCKED THE MAIN CORRIDOR... WE WERE AWARE THAT WE WERE CONFRONTED BY A MYSTERY...

THE ASSASSIN'S TRACKS SEEM TO STOP HERE

I SAY. THIS IDOL..

.. THEN, IN A FLASH OF INTUITION, MORTON FELL UPON THE DEVICE THAT OPENED THE SECRET DOOR

BRAVO!

CREEEAAAKKK

THUD

WE BEHELD A MOST INCREDIBLE SIGHT

WELL! COME IN OR GET OUT, BUT CLOSE THE BLOODY DOOR FOR THE LOVE OF GOD

MOEBIUS

8

SUDDENLY

AIEEEE!... HEY! I THINK MY WOUND'S OPENED AGAIN!...

I HAVE A QUEBECOIS MEDICINE ESPECIALLY FOR SHOULDER WOUNDS!..

①OUR HERO WAS, UNFORTUNATELY, WOUNDED LAST NIGHT AROUND 11:00, WHILE CLEANING HIS WEAPON: A GLEAMING BOWIE-KNIFE, WHICH SLIPPED BETWEEN TWO RIBS AND SLIGHTLY PUNCTURED AN UPPER RIGHT LUNG

THREE HOURS LATER ON THE TERRACE·

YES, THAT'S BETTER

YES, ISN'T IT!? AH, HERE'S DORA, MY WIFE!

ALAN, DARLING, I'VE BROUGHT JILL WITH ME...

WHAT IS THIS ALL ABOUT?

MAKES NO SENSE AT ALL!

SM

OUCH!

HOW'DJA DO! HOW'DJA DO!

MŒBIUS 9

IT WAS THEN THAT I FELT THAT GLANCE FOR WHICH I HAD BEEN WAITING, FOR WHICH MY HEART HAD SOUGHT SO LONG. I HAD NEVER FELT ANY-THING LIKE IT BEFORE...

THERE MUST BE A MISTAKE HERE SOMEWHERE

DARLING, LETS LEAVE THIS HOSTILE WORLD!

OH, EDUARDO WHERE COULD WE GO?

I MUST BE DREAMING

SOUVENIR FROM ACAPULCO

LATER SUMMER

ALAMO

ONE MOMENT, FOLKS!..

OLD MINE STORY

SO, BRIGGS, HOW DOES THE STORY OF THE OLD MINE END?

THE OLD MINE STORY

THE OLD MINE STORY

AFTER A SERIES OF HALLUCINATIONS, EACH ONE MORE COLORFUL THAN THE LAST, MY DEPUTY MORTON WAS SUDDENLY INSPIRED, AND TOOK FROM HIS DERRINGER A LITTLE DEVICE OF HIS INVENTION, WHICH IS CALLED "MAXILIOTRON" IN SCIENTIFIC CIRCLES ON THE WEST COAST...

HE PUSHED A RED BUTTON WITH HIS LEFT THUMB WHILE HIS RIGHT INDEX FINGER TENSELY PULLED THE RELEASE CORD A BLACK SCREEN THEN DESCENDED TO PREVENT OUR SEEING ALL AROUND US, WHILE A VIOLENT EXPLOSION SHOOK THE MINE..

A RAGING TIDAL WAVE SWEPT THE DARK PASSAGES.. CHASING ARMIES OF HUGE BLACK RATS!.. GREAT TONGUES OF FIRE CRACKLED, AN ENORMOUS STREAM OF LAVA ROSE AND ROSE, WHEN A VOICE CRIED OUT...

RIIIIIIIINNNGGG

AH.. THE TELEPHONE

HELLO! YESS... THAT'S ME... YES, YES, WHAT? **WHAT??** THREE THOUSAND PLAYPENS HAVE DISAPPEARED BETWEEN ABILENE AND BATON ROUGE? ...I'M RUINED!..

I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT WHAT'S HAPPENED, BUT ALAN HAS BEEN SO DELICATE EVER SINCE THAT EPISODE OF THE OLD MINE... DO COME BACK ANOTHER TIME...

RUINED!... SOB! THERE'S NOTHING LEFT TO DO BUT DIE!...

OK, WE'LL GIVE IT SOME THOUGHT, MY DEAR!...

HEM HEM

MŒBIUS 11

THE YEARS PASSED...

WHAT A SWEET-SMELLING BREEZE, ALL OF A SUDDEN.. BRIGGS NEVER UNDERSTOOD THE SECRET OF THE OLD MINE IN DEATH VALLEY...

BAH!... HE MISSED THE REAL CLUE!. • WE'LL BE AT THE VILLAGE BY NIGHTFALL..

CENTURIES, PERHAPS.

JILL! HOW DO YOU LIKE THIS WILD AND RAMBLING LIFE?.

I KEEP TRAVELIN' ON, THE MAN I LOVE IS A HIT MAN

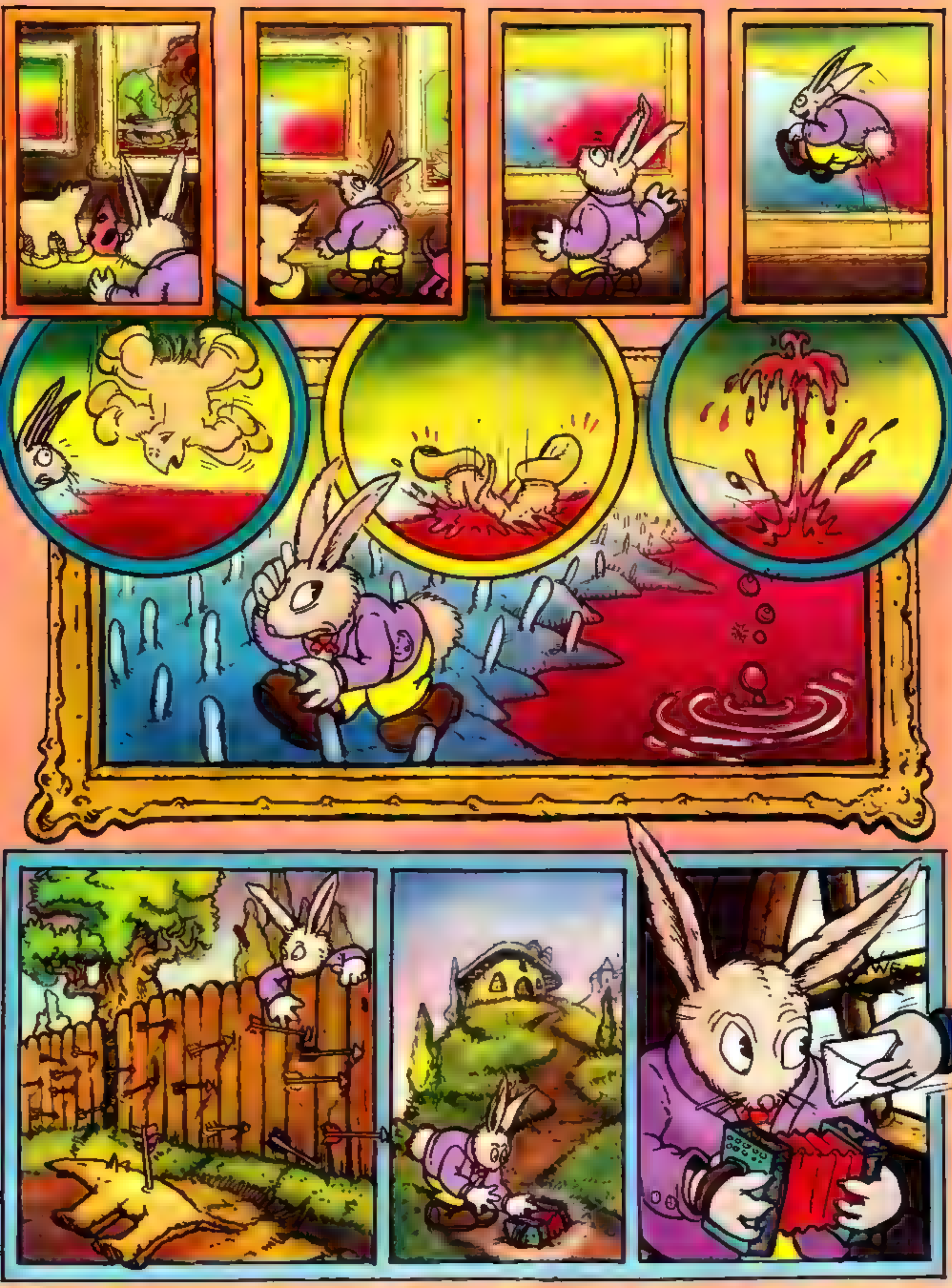
ANYWAY, FOR NOW WE HAVE NO MORE INFORMATION TO COMMUNICATE ON THE SUBJECT OF EDOUARDO HAMMER, ALIAS EDOUARDO SCHWANKRISNER, ALIAS ED McLYNN...

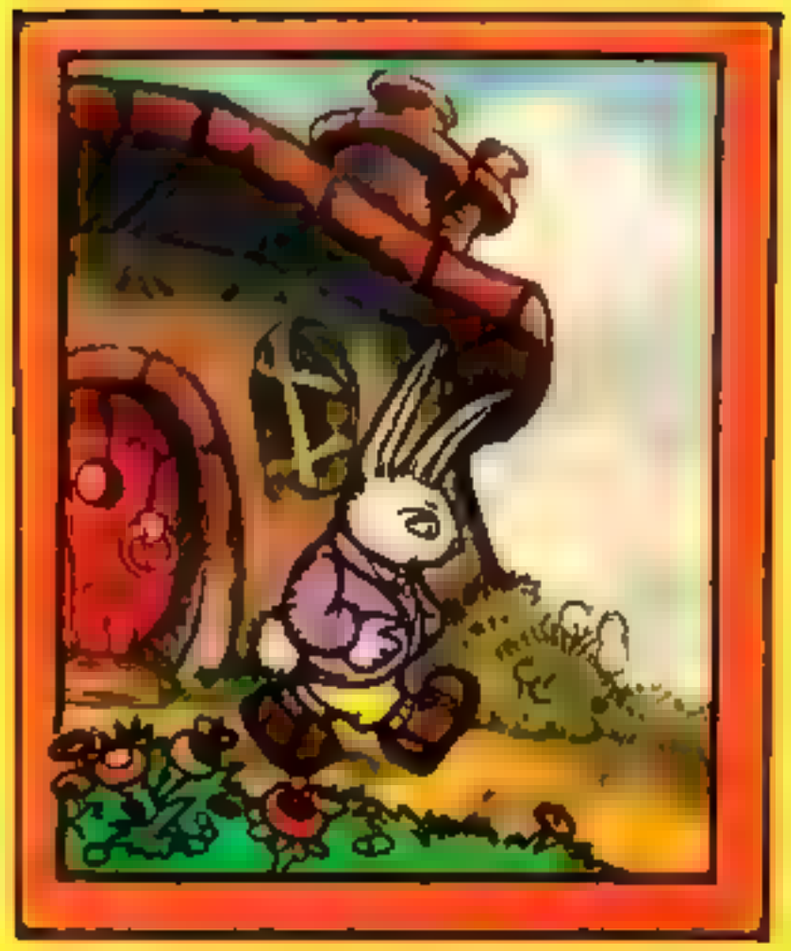
GIDDY UP!

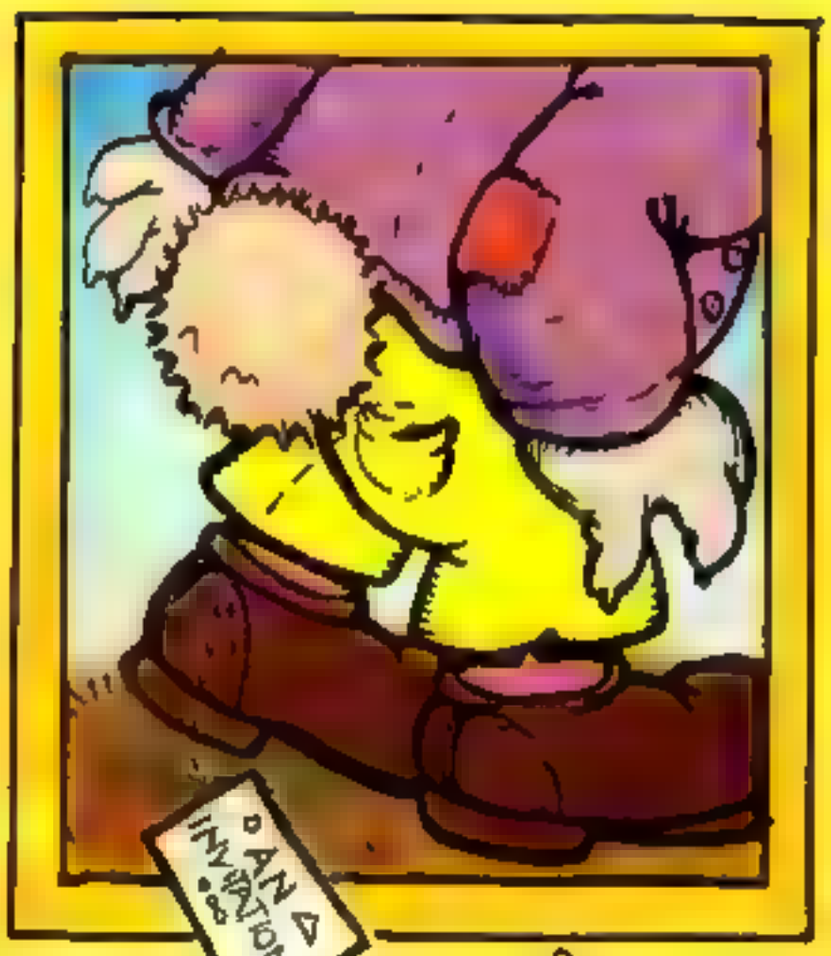
The End

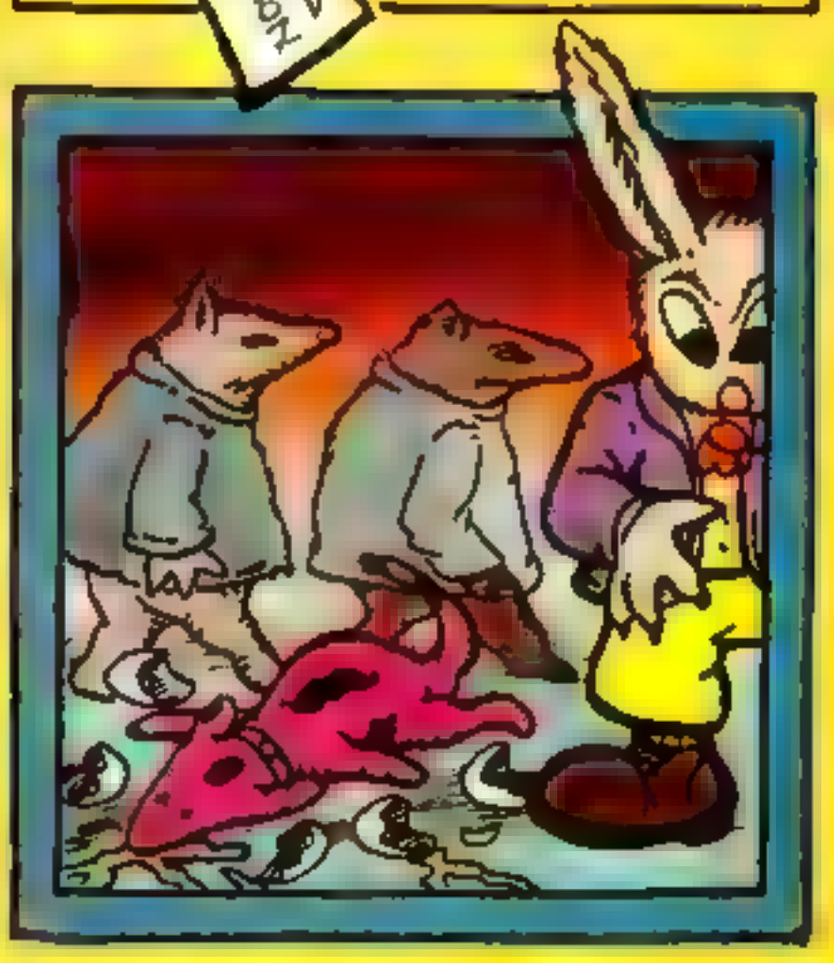
MOEBIUS 12

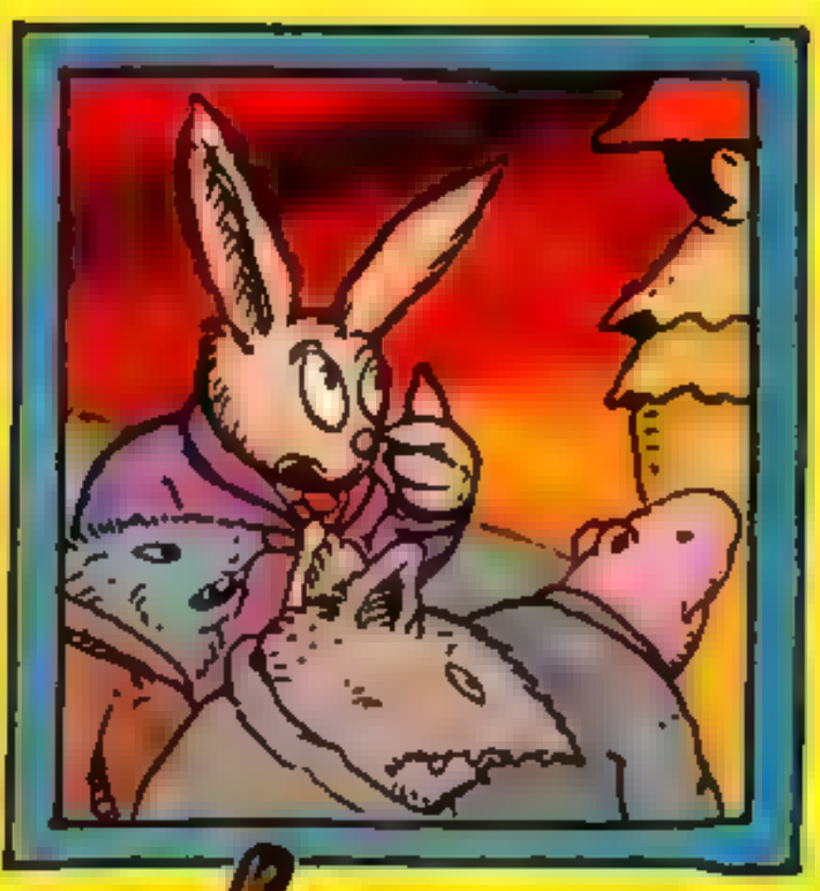
EXQUISITE CORPSES

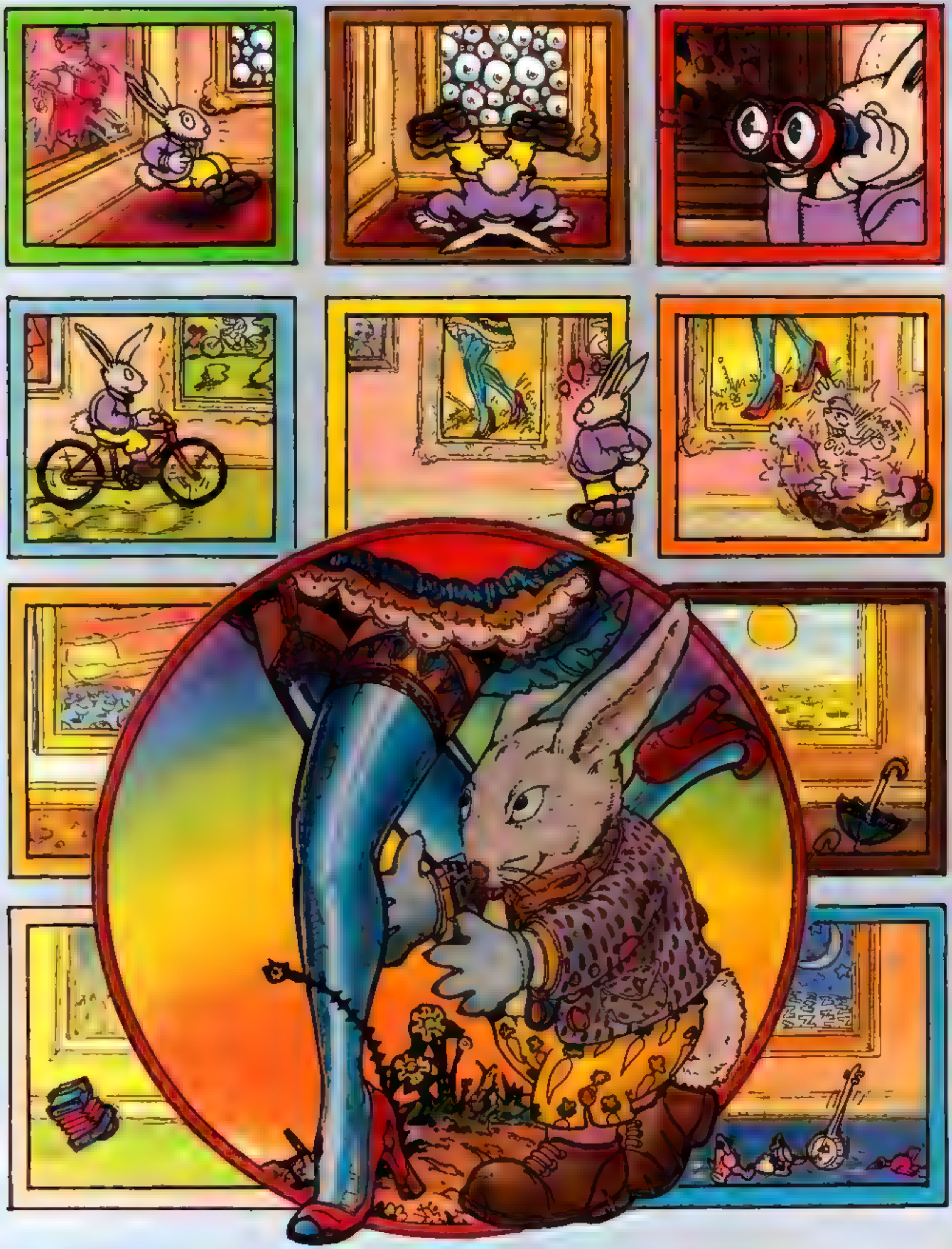






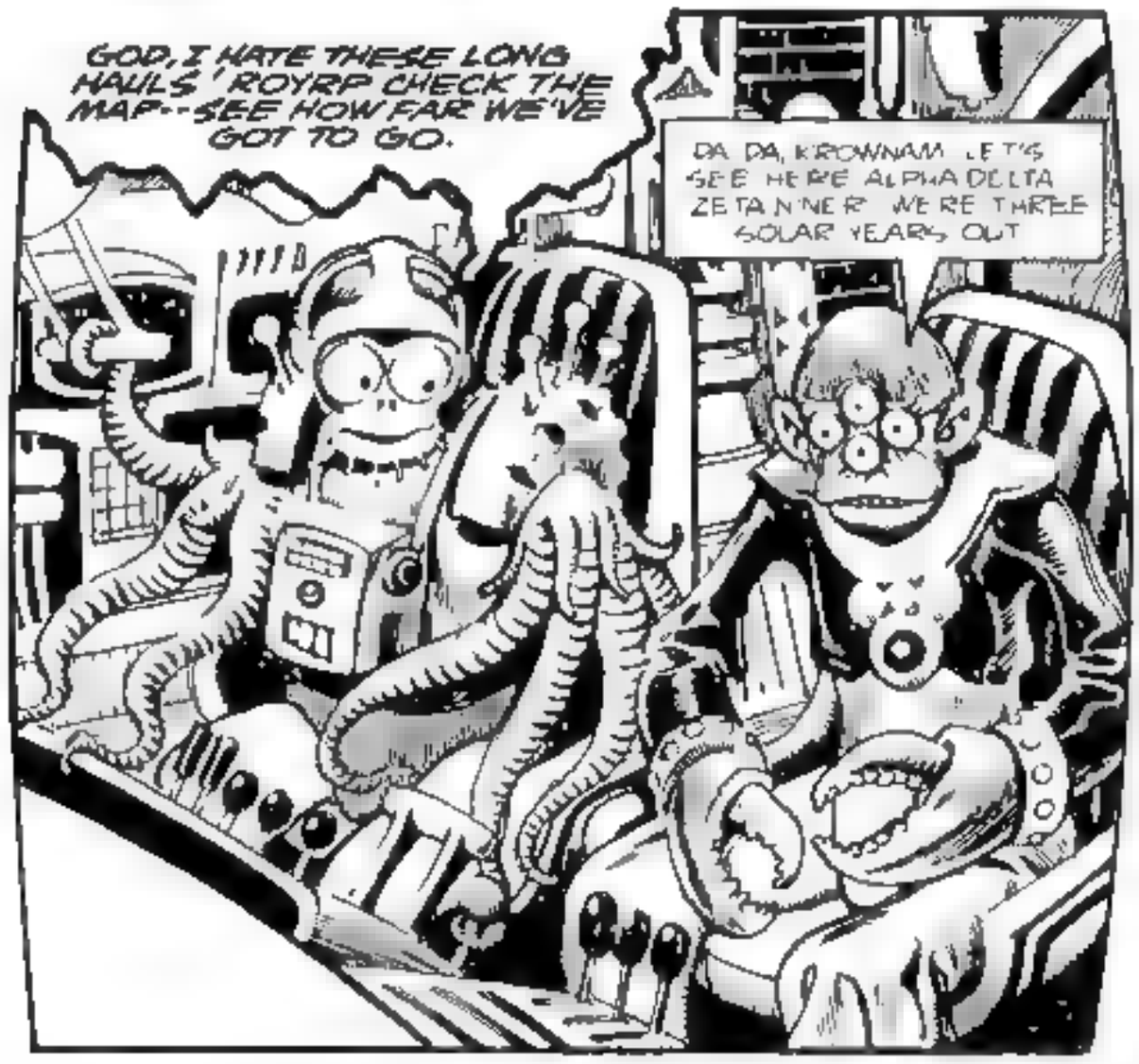






THE SIGN

BY LAWRENCE SHELLAND
ALFREDO ALCALA


GOD, I HATE THESE LONG HAULS! ROYRP CHECK THE MAP--SEE HOW FAR WE'VE GOT TO GO.
DA DA, KROWNAM. LET'S SEE HERE ALPHA DELTA ZETA NINER. WE'RE THREE SOLAR YEARS OUT

DA DA KROWNAM HEY, HOW COME THAT LITTLE BLUE "E" LIGHT'S FLASHIN'?
YUCK! PUT THAT LID BACK ON! LET'S TURN AROUND.
BLUE "E" LIGHT? THAT'S A LEAK IN THE MOLECULAR CONDUCTION SYSTEM. PULL THAT LEVER OR THE WHOLE THING'LL BLOW..

IT GOT BROKE
BROKE? WHAT KINDA MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT.

BAROOOOM!
THE SHIP EXPLODED SILENTLY, IN A NUCLEAR BLAST BRIGHT AS A NOVA VISIBLE MANY GALAXIES AWAY

EVEN ON A FLEDGLING PLANET IN THE SOL GALAXY

END

ORION

© 1978 GRAY MORROW

AS THE WITCH QUEEN OF XANADA DIES AT THE HANDS OF THE DROONS IN THE RAGING INFERNO ABOVE THEIR HEADS, SPRITE BREATHES HER LAST IN ORION'S ARMS.

WELL?! WHAT IN HELL ARE YOU STARING AT?

HOLD, URZA! ANOTHER VICTIM OF LAMONTHOS'S MACHINATIONS, IT WOULD SEEM. WE SEEK **HIS DEATH ONLY**, AND NO QUARREL WITH STRANGERS.

YOU MUST BE ORION. MAMBA SPOKE OF YOU.

MAMBA! HE STILL LIVES?

MAMBA INDEED STILL LIVES AND NURTURES A PASSIONATE HATRED FOR THE WIZARD, WHO IS ABOUT TO UNWITTINGLY DELIVER HIMSELF INTO HIS ENEMY'S HANDS.

FIRE! I PRAY THE GODS IT HASN'T CHEATED ME OF MY REVENGE!

AFTER REGAINING CONSCIOUSNESS FROM THE BLOW DEALT HIM BY URZA, MAMBA HAS FREED HIMSELF OF HIS BONDS AND TRACKED THE MUTE AND HIS MISTRESS THROUGH THE MAZE OF TUNNELS TO THE ISLAND OF CASTLE CLAW.

LAMONTHOS'S ESCAPE THROUGH THE SECRET PASSAGE HAS BROUGHT HIM TO ONE OF THE LOWER RAMPARTS OF THE CASTLE OVERLOOKING THE MISTY LAKE.. AND TO MAMBA...

YOU LOOK LOST, WIZARD. LET ME HELP YOU TO FIND YOUR WAY -- TO ETERNITY!

DISREGARDING HIS SWORD, MAMBA REACHES CLUTCHING HANDS FOR LAMONTHOS'S THROAT THEIR BODIES LOCK IN A GROTESQUE EMBRACE THAT BECOMES A DANCE OF DEATH ON THE PRECIPITOUS PARAPET HIGH ABOVE ABYSMAL WATERS.

ONLY ONE HEAD APPEARS ON THE SURFACE...

THE WIZARD SLIPPED FROM MY GRASP. D.D HE DROWN?.. OR DOES HE STILL LIVE TO MAKE MORE MISCHIEF IN THE WORLD?... WHAT MATTERS? IF HE LIVES, I'LL BE MOST HAPPY TO KILL HIM AGAIN.

EXHAUSTED, MAMBA SLUMPS INTO UNCONSCIOUSNESS... THEN, HOURS LATER...

I WONDER IF MY FORMER COMPANIONS SURVIVED THIS BLAZE.

HO, MAMBA!

REUNITED AND REALLY FRIENDS FOR THE FIRST TIME, THE ADVENTURERS DISCUSS THE EVENTS THAT LED THEM TO THE PRESENT POINT IN TIME.

...SO LAMONTHOS MAY HAVE SURVIVED WELL, IF HE DID, I'M CERTAIN WE'LL MEET HIM AGAIN. TO WHATEVER THE THE FUTURE HOLDS!

I SEE YOU SALVAGED SOME VIANDS AND POTABLES - NOT TO MENTION YOUR DAMNED SWORD.

THORBOLT LEADS ME TO MY DESTINY. WERE I TO DISCARD IT, IT WOULD FIND ME AGAIN, RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO EVADE FATE I'LL MEET IT HEAD-ON!

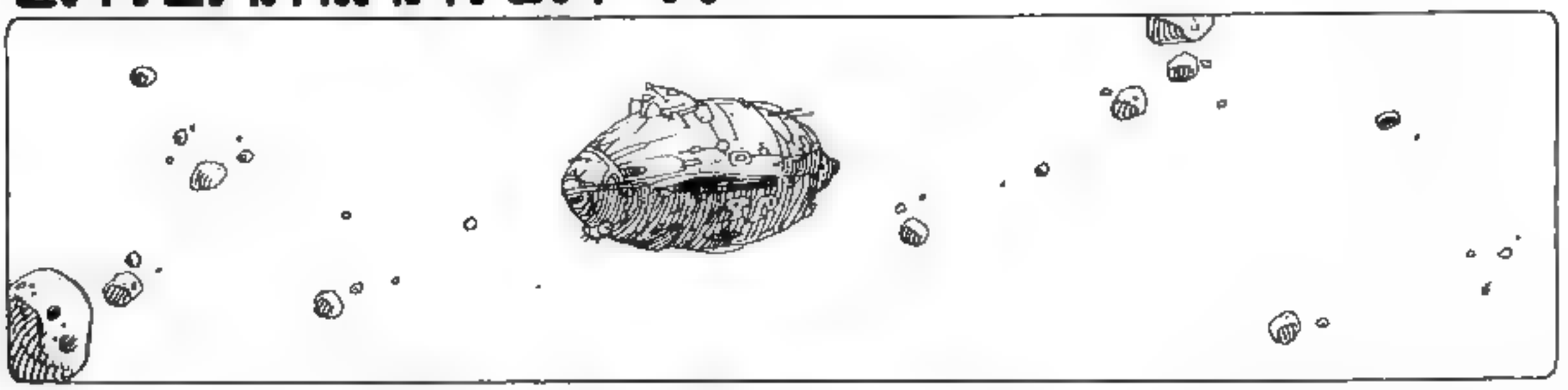
SO BE IT ORION! LET'S LEAVE BEHIND US THE STENCH OF THIS EVIL VALE QUICKLY THEN!

THE EVIL IS BURNED OUT. WOULD THAT I COULD SO CAUTERIZE THE SMOULDERING ACHE IN MY HEART...

AS THEY RISE THROUGH THE DISSIPATING VAPORS THAT SHROUDED THE VALLEY, THEY REALIZE THAT JUST AS THE SUN WILL SOON AGAIN SHINE ON XANSRA, SO HAS DAME FORTUNE SMILED UPON THEM- THIS TIME... BUT WHO KNOWS WHAT TOMORROW WILL BRING?...

GARY MORROW

EXTERMINATOR 17



ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO RETURN TO EARTH?

ABSOLUTELY! SOMEHOW, I'VE BEEN GIVEN A SECOND CHANCE. I WANT TO UNDO THE WRONGS THAT WERE DONE.

WELL, FIRST YOU'LL HAVE TO ALTER YOUR APPEARANCE... THE TERRESTRIAL ADMINISTRATION WOULD SPOT YOU INSTANTLY...AND IF THAT HAPPENS, IT'S ALL OVER..

I WANT TO LIBERATE THE ANDROIDS.

WHAT'S MORE, EVERY MOMENT HERE, YOU RISK BEING RECOGNIZED AND SLAUGHTERED...

WHAT CAN WE DO?

IT SEEMS THERE'S A PLASTIC SURGEON ON BOARD

A PLASTIC SURGEON ABOARD A GENETIC PROBE SHIP?

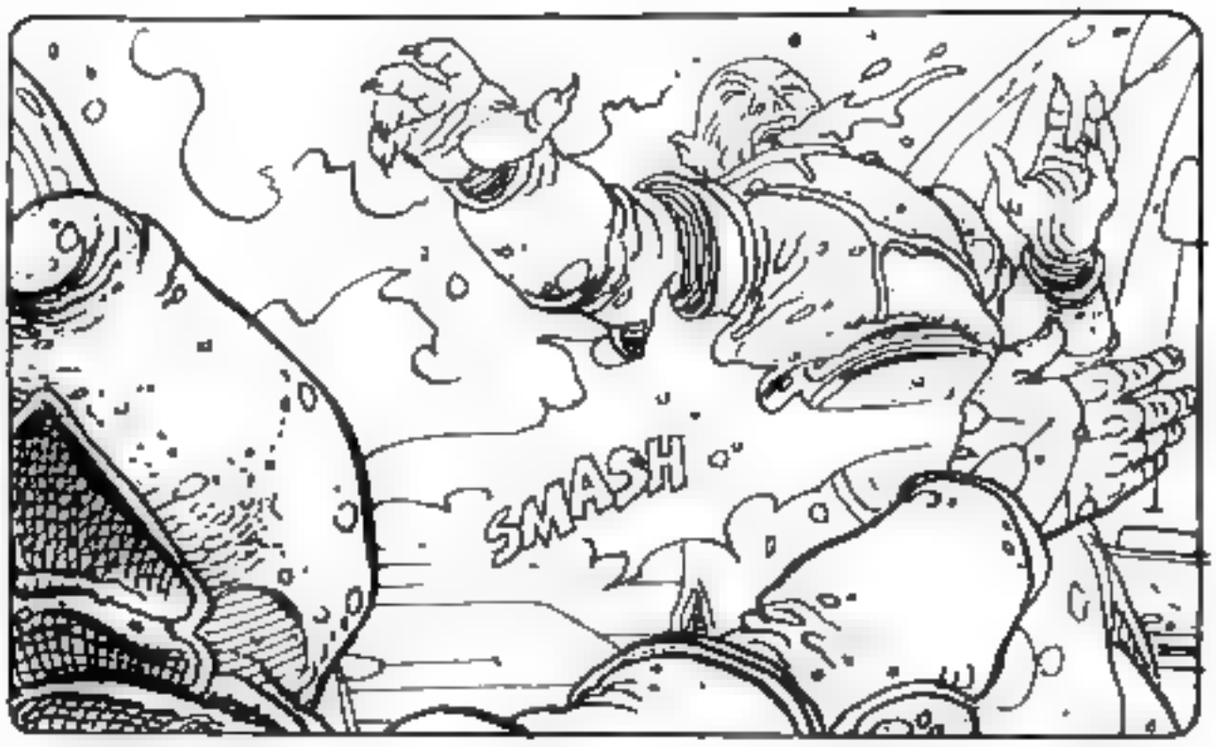
YES, BUT HE'S A MARKED MAN AS A RESULT OF SEVERAL IRREGULARITIES...

WE'LL FIND HIM IN THE HIDDEN ZONE, BEHIND THE ADMISSION TOWER.

ON A SHIP LIKE THIS, EVERYONE SETTLES IN QUICKLY, EVEN SUCH AS HE THOSE WHO BOARD FIRST CHOOSE THE BEST SPOTS AND LOOK DOWN ON THE OTHERS.. OUTCASTS HERE ARE SIMPLY THOSE WHO HAVE SETTLED FAR AWAY FROM THE LIGHT SOURCE...

WE'RE ALMOST THERE

CAREFUL!... I FEEL SOMEONE IS ABOUT TO ATTACK US...


SMASH

YOU ALL RIGHT?

YES, I'M ALL RIGHT. I THINK THEY'LL LEAVE US ALONE NOW..
23

COME IN. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. THEY HAVE, AS IT WERE, ANNOUNCED YOUR VISIT TO ME. WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?...

UNCOVER YOURSELF. YOU ARE NOT IN DANGER HERE.

...YOU ARE NOT THE FIRST DESERTER TO WANT HIS REGISTRATION NUMBER ERASED.

IT'S EASY. I COULD REMOVE THAT NUMBER IN JUST A FEW MINUTES AND RECONSTRUCT YOUR FACIAL CONTOURS SO AS TO RENDER YOU UNRECOGNIZABLE..

COME CLOSER!

BUT WHAT CAN YOU DO FOR ME IN EXCHANGE? I KNOW SOME PERVERTS ON EARTH WHO WOULD PAY DEARLY TO SPEND A FEW INTIMATE HOURS WITH AN ANDROID.

BUT NOT HERE, UNFORTUNATELY SO HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO PAY ME?

WITH THIS!

?

!! FORGIVE ME!.. I HAD NO WAY OF KNOWING

WHAT DID YOU DO?

A LITTLE MAGIC TRICK. QUITE HARMLESS..

ASTONISHING. STILL

I HAVE A NEW FACE..

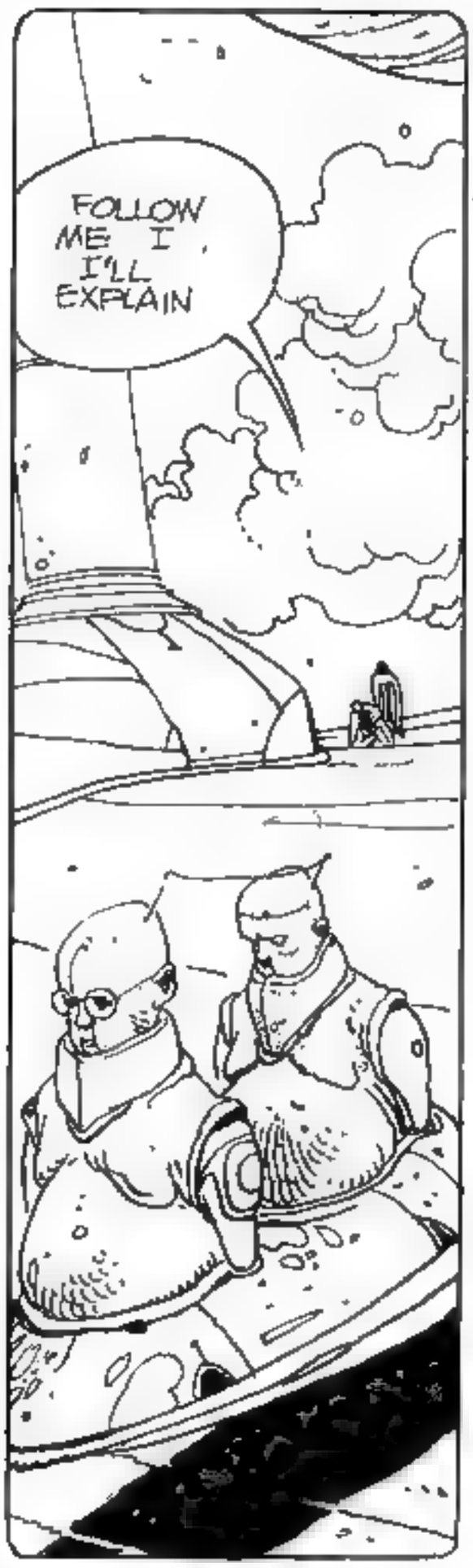
NOW, CLETON, HOW ARE YOU GOING TO GET US OUT OF HERE?

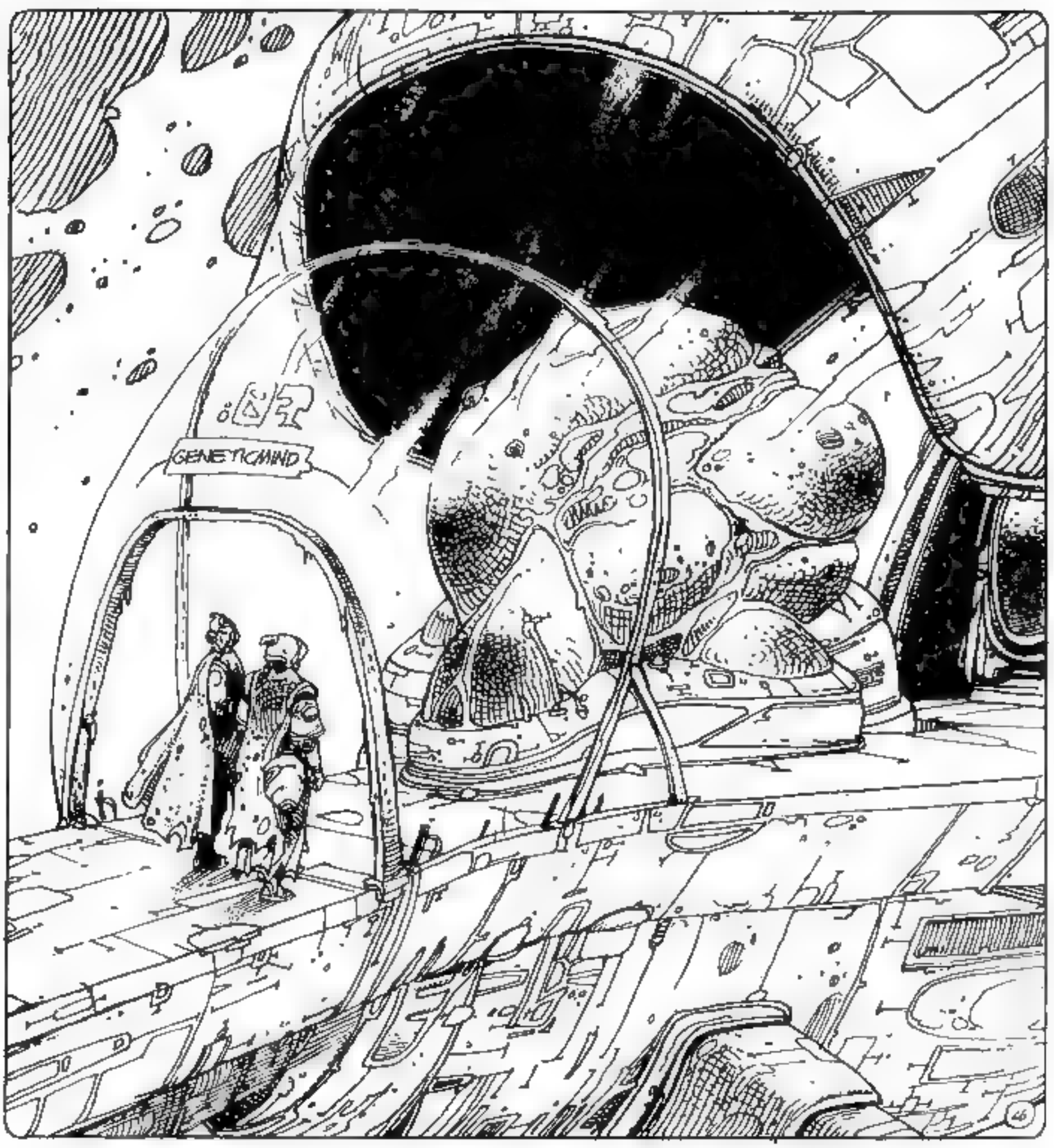
ACTUALLY, I'M QUITE INCAPABLE OF IT ON MY OWN..

WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU BROUGHT ME HERE, YOU CONVINCED ME YOU KNEW HOW TO GET OUT!! YOU LIED TO ME!

YOU LIED TO ME! I'LL KILL YOU!
ST, I STOP.

I KNOW HOW TO GET AWAY BUT I CAN'T DO IT ALONE


FOLLOW ME I, I'LL EXPLAIN


GENETICMIND

CLETON

...LIKE ALL "GENETIC PROBES," THIS SHIP IS PROGRAMMED TO OPEN AS SOON AS ITS GOAL IS ACHIEVED...

...THAT CAN HAPPEN ANY TIME NOW...

...OR, RATHER, YOU MUST MAKE THE CONTROL BELIEVE IT HAS HAPPENED...

EXTERMINATOR 17

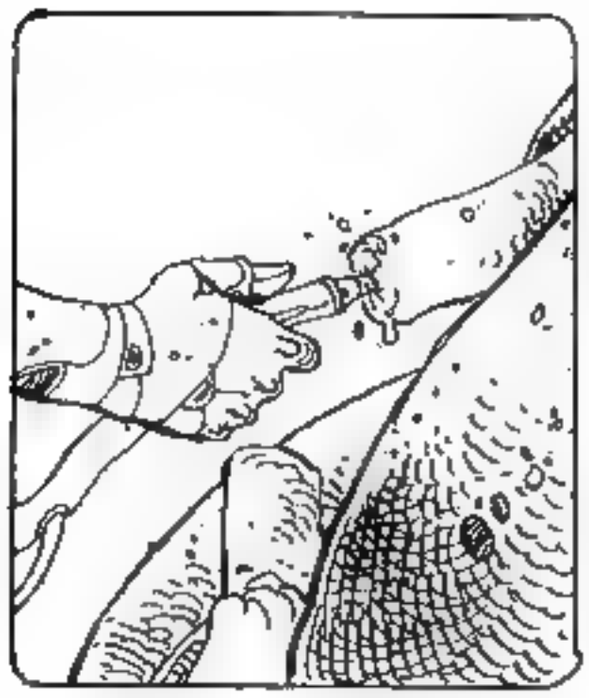
...BUT HOW? WAIT...I THINK I UNDERSTAND...

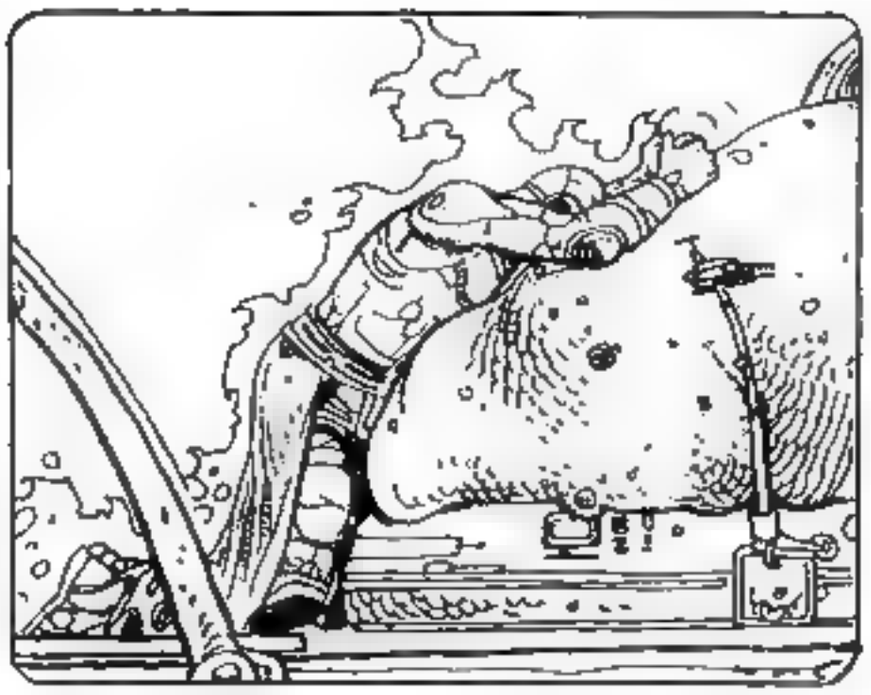
CLETON

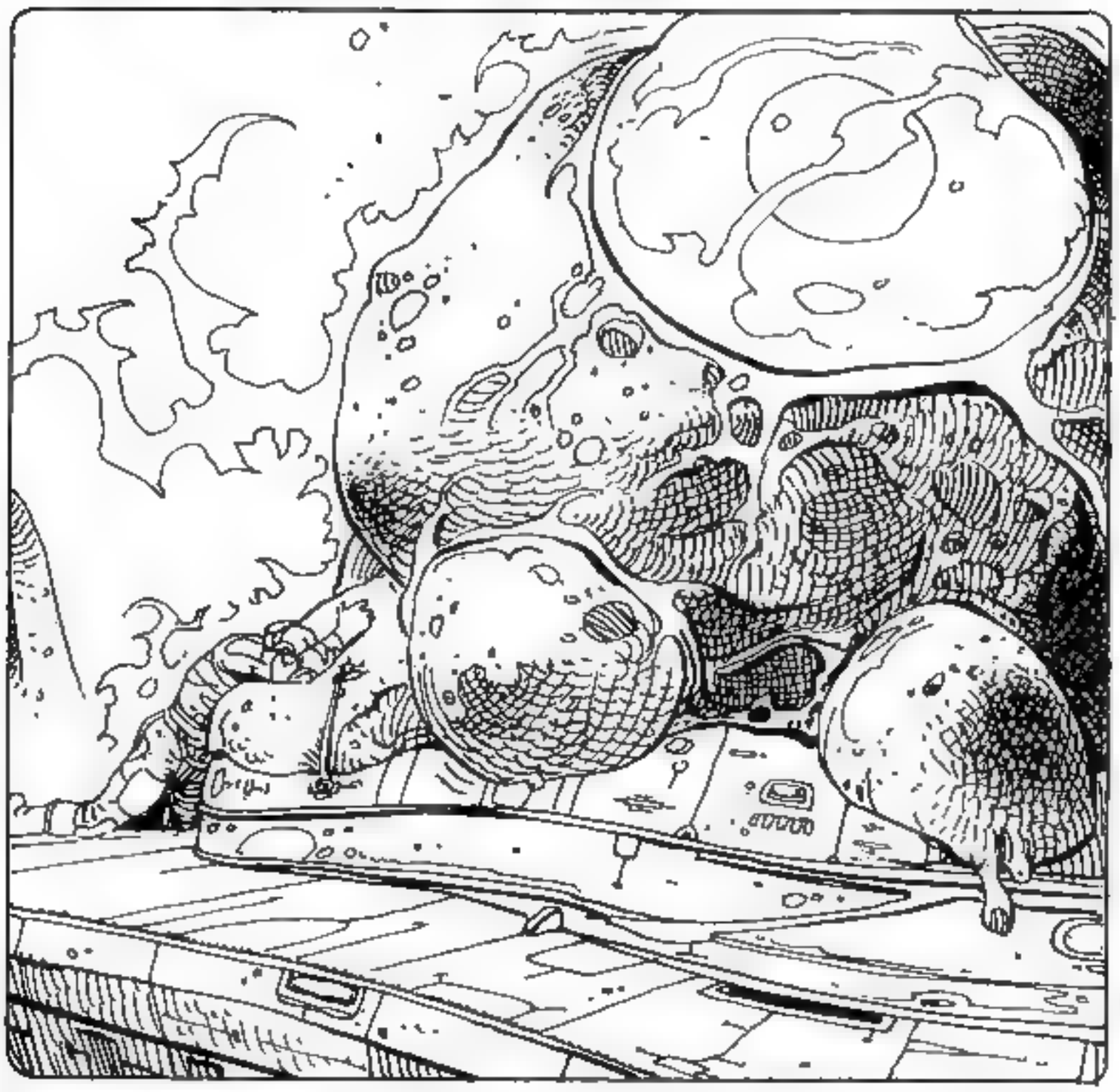
...YES, YOU ARE GOING TO USE YOUR ANDROID POWERS TO SIMULATE AN ARRIVAL... ...PLUG INTO THE CENTRAL BRAIN, THE GENETICMIND...

...GIVE IT ENOUGH INFORMATION TO MAKE IT BELIEVE IT HAS REACHED THE PROMISED LAND...

...SO THAT IT INITIATES THE LANDING PROCEDURES...







...AND HAVING LANDED...

...IT WILL BEGIN UNLOADING...

...THEN WE CAN SEND A SIGNAL FOR SOMEONE TO COME FIND US...

EXTERMINATOR 17

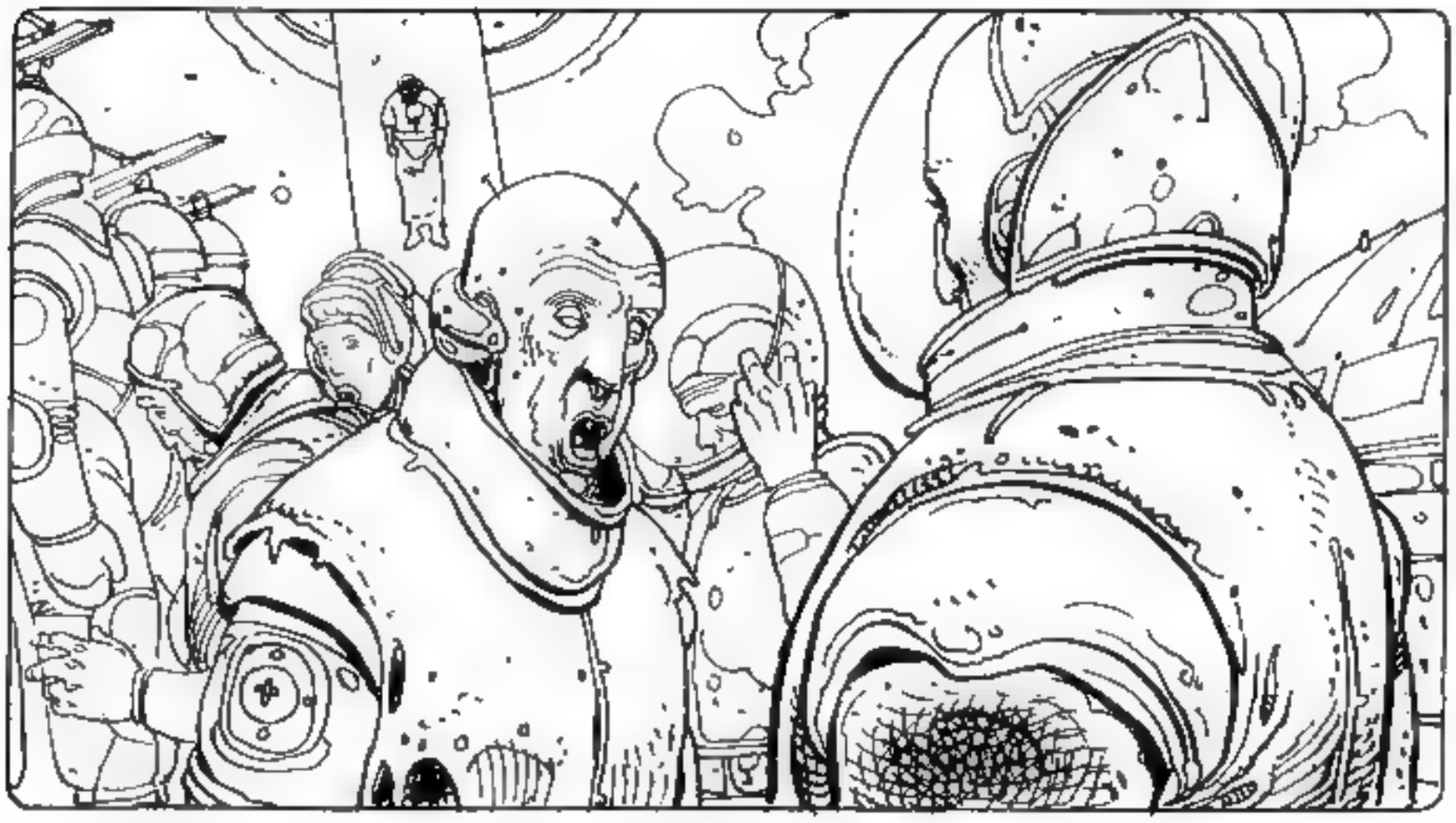
...WHAT ABOUT THE PEOPLE? ALL THE PEOPLE ON BOARD?

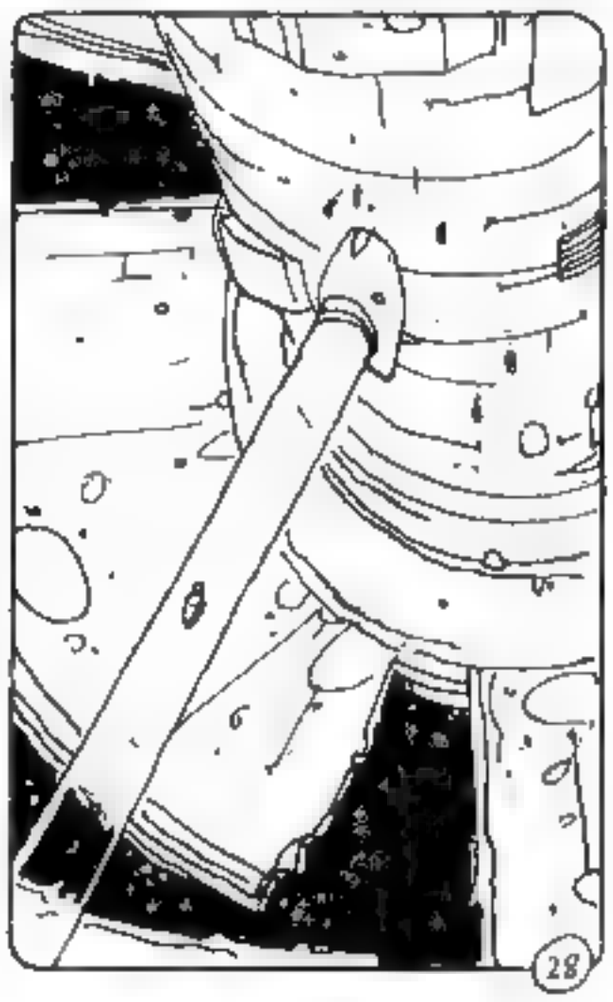
CLETON

...THEY HAVE SURVIVAL SUITS... WITH SIX DAYS' AIR SUPPLY... AND AN EXCELLENT CHANCE OF BEING FISHED OUT OF HERE...

...ANYWAY, IT'S THEM OR THE ANDROIDS...

...AND IT'S YOUR CHOICE...





SCRIPT: J P DIONNET ART: BILAL • TO BE CONTINUED

AND THE INTERMED-IATE ZONE WEL-COMES SLOANE..

EMPTY, EMPTY SCUM! I FEEL THE PRESENCE.

THE DOOR IS BLOCKED, YOU RED-EYED DEMON!

GAIL

by PHILIPPE DRUILLET

YOUR PLACE IS NOT HERE. YOU'LL DESTROY YOURSELF, FLESH AND BONES! ADVANCE NO FURTHER!

MUST I FIGHT AGAINST EVERY IMBECILE PLAYING ABOUT IN THE UNIVERSE?

I'LL SEW UP YOUR LIPS INTO AN UN-PLEASANT SHAPE.

YOUR MOUNT HAS IT ALL WRONG. IT SHOULD BE ON YOUR BACK.

ENOUGH FIGHTING WORDS! THEIR TIME IS OVER! TAKE YOUR ARMS AND FIGHT, SMOOTH-SKINNED MONKEY!

FUCK THIS SHIT!

IN THE HUMAN SPACE THE BATTLE CONTINUES, AND THE FIRES OF HOLY MARY ARE LIT IN THEIR TURN...

EVERYWHERE METAL IGNITES AND DISAPPEARS, LIVES BLASTED AWAY...

TO BE CONTINUED...

MY WATCH WAS STOPPED, AND I DON'T LIKE IT. I HAVE NO MORE POINTS OF REFERENCE NOW. IT CAN'T BE MUCH LATER THAN NOON. I COULDN'T SAY JUST HOW, BUT EVERYTHING IS BECOMING MORE DISJOINTED AND ABSURD BY THE HOUR. AND I KNOW VERY WELL THAT THERE ARE SEVERAL HOURS AFTER AN INQUIRY BEGINS THAT ARE SPEEDY, EFFICIENT, REGULATED. I HAVE SUDDENLY LOST ALL INTEREST IN THIS AFFAIR. THE STRESS MUST BE BAD FOR ME. YET I FIND MYSELF STANDING LOOKING FOR THE SEARCH PARTY NOW FAR OFF ON THE HORIZON.

SOUTHWEST. KEEP TO THE SOUTHWEST!

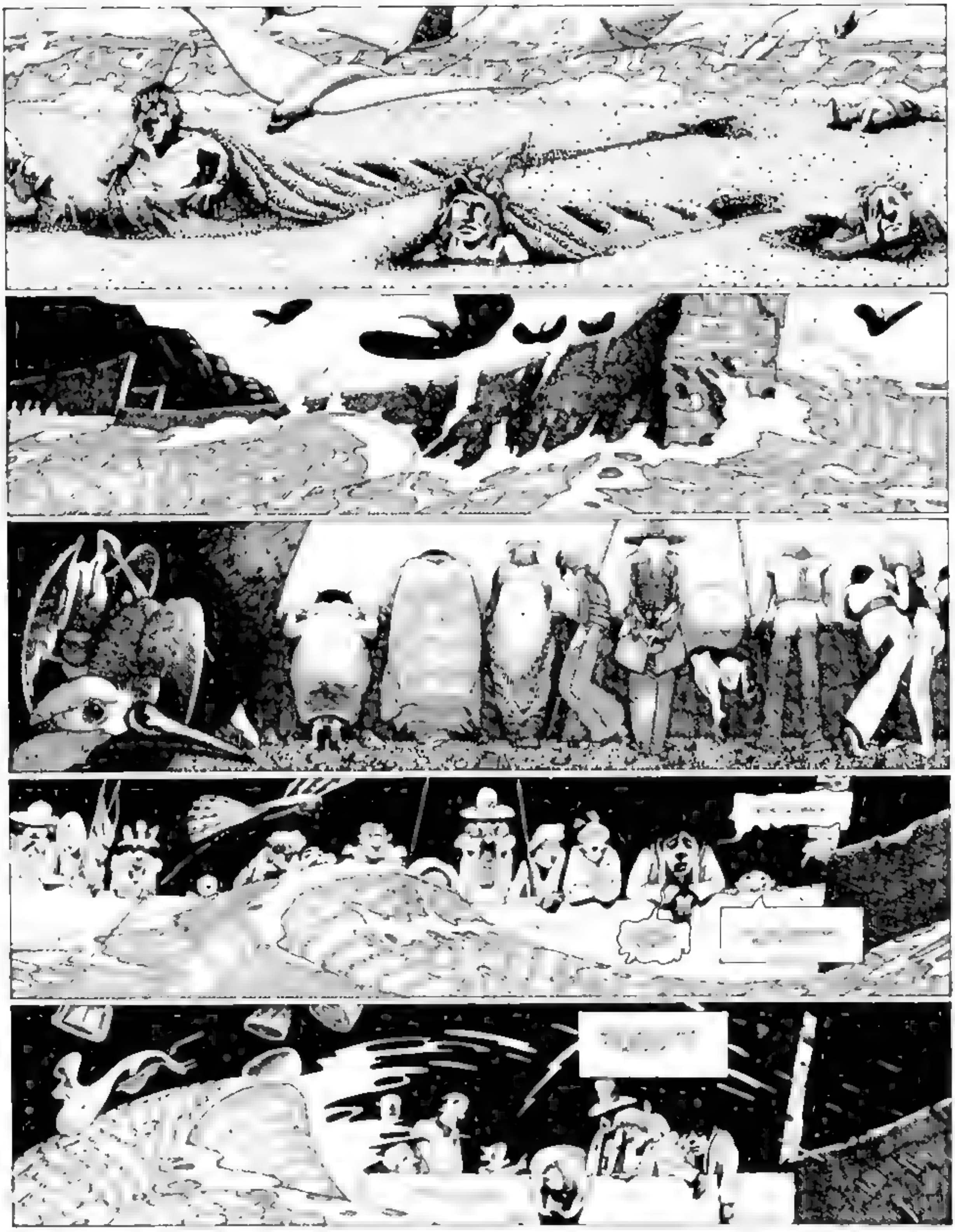
SOUTHWEST. KEEP TO THE SOUTHWEST! GOOD. GOOD!

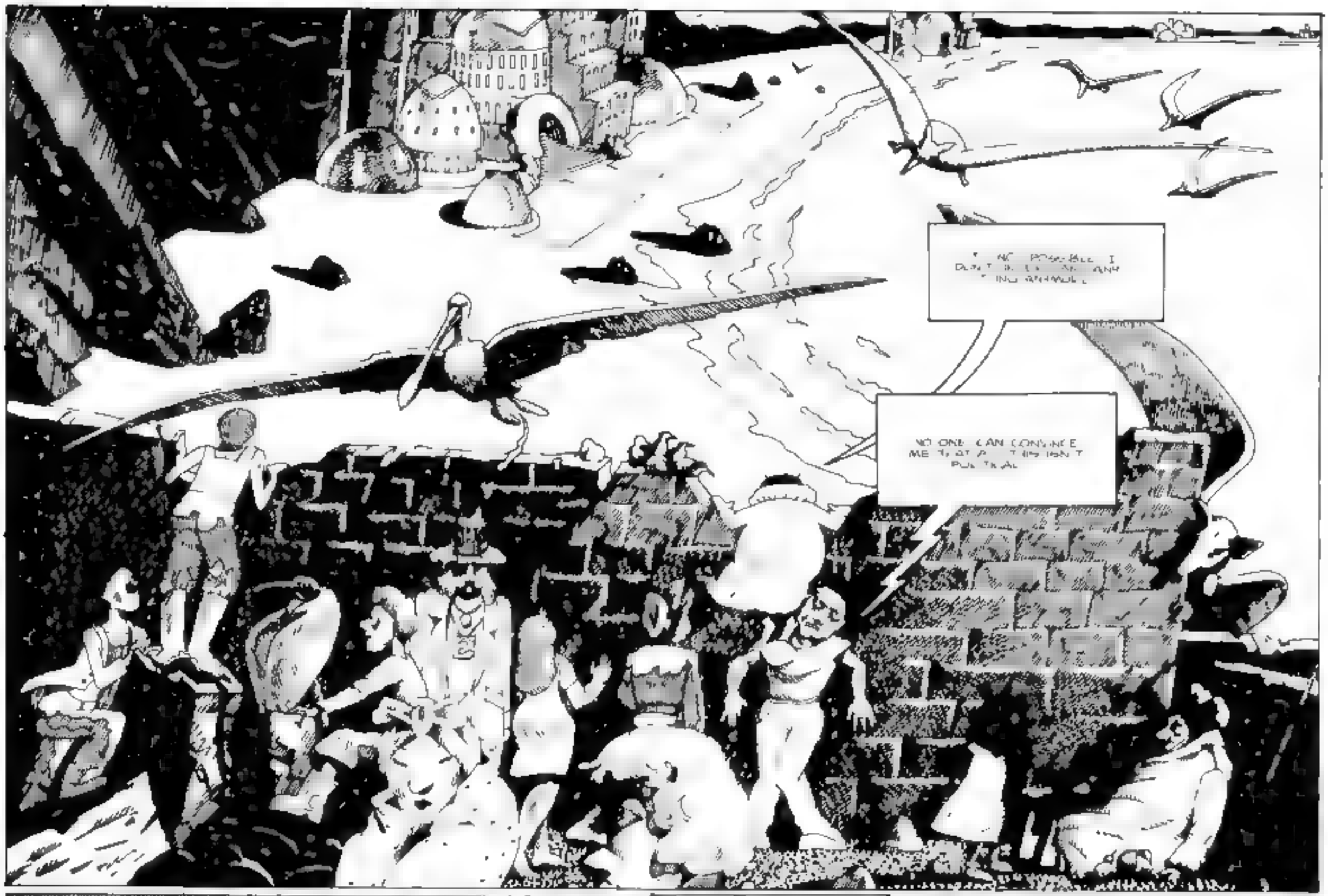
THE SEARCH MAY BE LENGTHY, AND NO ONE HAS THOUGHT TO BRING FOOD.

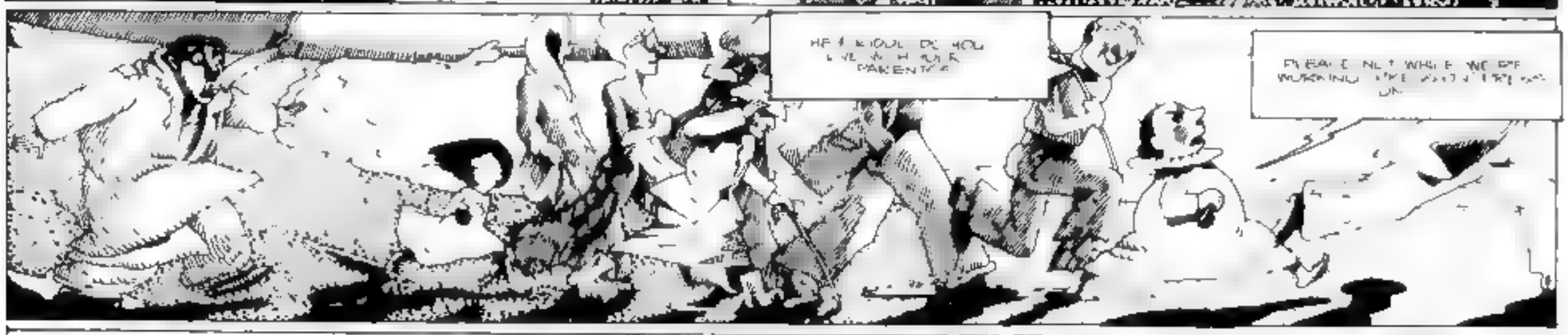
TOMORROW I'M GOING TO SLEEP IN! I DESERVE IT.

ARE WE GOING TO HAVE TO SLEEP UNDER THE STARS?

THIS IS ALL VERY WELL, BUT IF WE GET LOST WHO'S GOING TO LOOK FOR US?




NO ONE CAN CONVINCE ME THAT A TRIBUNAL IS NOT POLITICAL


HE SHOULD BE MORE LENIENT WITH HIS PARENTS
PLEASE DON'T WHILE WE'RE WORKING LIKE SLAVES TRYING

THAT'S THE LAST STRAW HE'S MAKING FUN OF ME

CAN'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT GOTTA PUT HIM IN HIS PLACE
IT'S DUNE

AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT TWO OR THREE KILOMETERS AWAY ALL THE GROUP GATHERS NEAR THE HOTEL LITTLE POINT IN THE DUNES THE FARGLE IN THE MAIL NEWS I ARRIVE JUST IN TIME TO OVERHEAR THEIR CONVERSATION

REMEMBER US

SO WHAT ABOUT THIS THESIS? "OYOKRON" FOR THOSE WHO KNOW?

I DON'T REALLY KNOW ANY MORE

I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO REMAKE THE WORLD

SAH, WHO'S THAT OVER THERE?

I'M CERTAIN OF HIM. I WAS NEVER REALLY WORRIED I WAS CERTAIN. CLEAR LUMINOUS AND EVIDENT

YOU'RE BACK? YOU HAD US ALL PRETTY WORKED UP THERE!

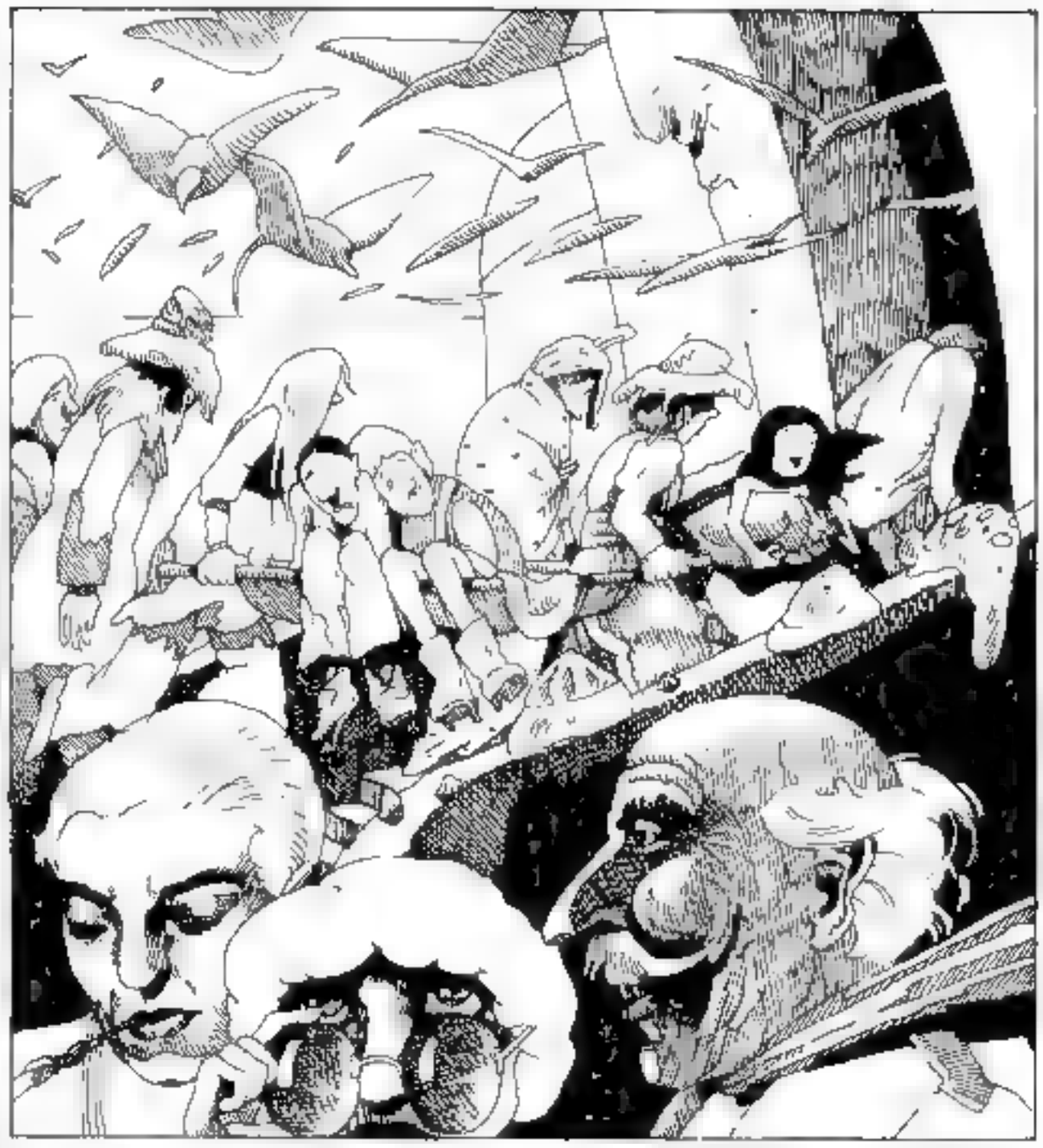
WHERE WERE YOU?

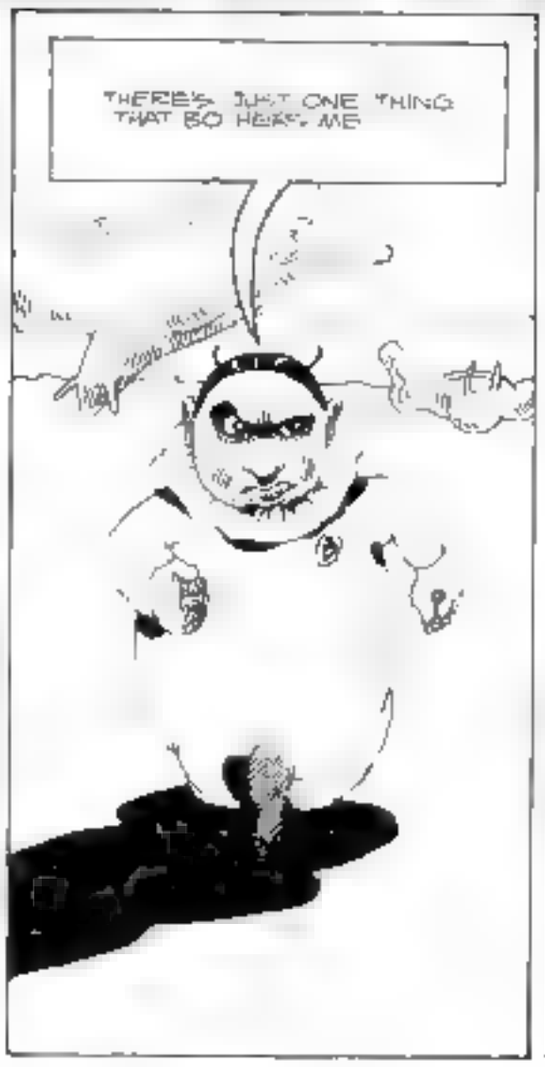
YOU'VE CHANGED

I WALKED FOR MILES ON THE SEA. THAT'S ALL

I CAN BREATHE EASY NOW. NOW THAT I THINK OF IT I SEE HERE NO THE SAD MAN WALKING ALONG THE SEASHORE. HIS HANDS CLASPED BEHIND HIS BACK AT THE SAME TIME THAT THE SEARCH PARTY SET OFF TO FIND HIM HIM DIDN'T I SAW SOMETHING

THAT WOULD HAVE SAVED THOSE FOOLHARDY CHARACTERS THE P
OF MORE EABLE DISCOVERIES AND THE PAINFUL SENSE OF FAILURE
I'D RATHER NOT THINK ABOUT IT I MUST SAY THAT THE SEARCH
COULD HAVE BEEN RESOLVED VERY QUICKLY AND VERY
SUCCESSFULLY IF IT HAD BEEN UNDERTAKEN IN A SENSIBLE WAY
AT ABOUT 1:00, THE SEARCHERS RETURN





JUST ONE QUESTION AND THE ENVELOPE'S CLOSED WHY THE HOPE FROM THE BALLOONIE
OH THAT WAS JUST A WAY TO GET DOWN FASTER- SO AS NOT TO AWAKEN ANYONE THAT NIGHT
AH HA

CONGRATULATIONS MY FRIENDS

BUT

RELAX WE'RE BEING PROVOKED

YOU WERE REALLY FIRST RATE

THAT MUST BE A JOKE

YOU SAY SHE'S NOT WORKING ANYMORE CHARLOTTE IF YOU LOVE ME GO GET THAT DIABOLICAL THESIS AND THROW IT IN THE SEA

AT LEAST THERE WON'T

LOOK UP THERE ON TOP OF THAT CLIFF YOU SEE IT?

LEAVING ALREADY?

YES THE PARTY'S OVER

I DON'T FEEL LIKE GOING ANYWHERE

WE'RE NOT GOING TO LEAVE [illegible] WHATEVER THINGS [illegible] ARE HERE YOU

IF YOU DO THINGS IN MOMENTS YOU'LL SEE JUST HOW THINGS HAVE A MORTAL DIMENSION [illegible]

WE THINK WE NEED TO EXAGGERATE

CAN I COUNT ON YOUR COMING NEXT SEASON?

IT'S SIMPLE

I DON'T KNOW

?!

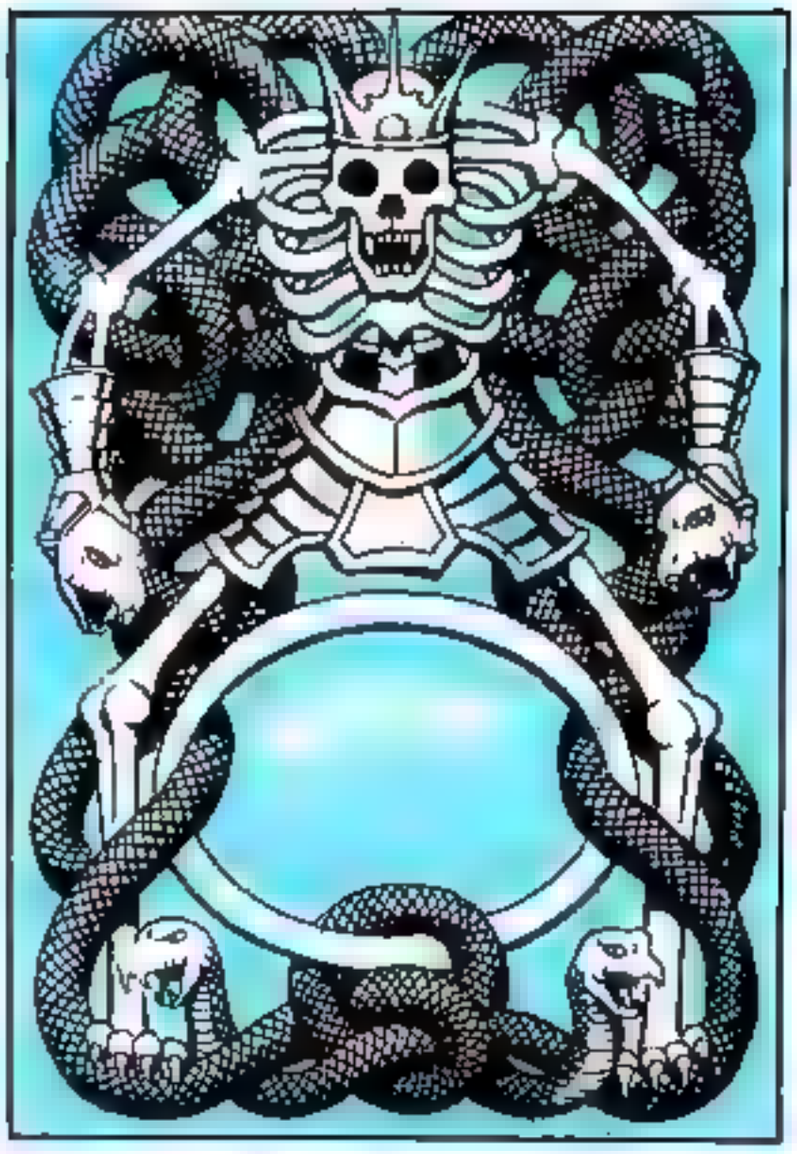
?!

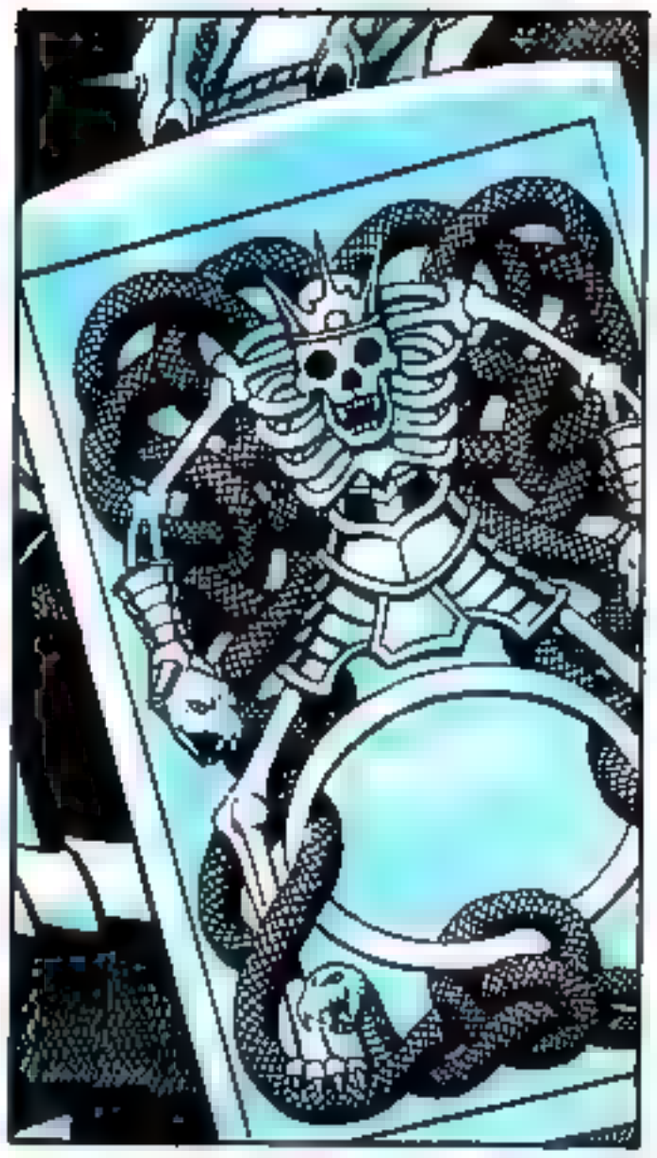
DON'T GET ANXIOUS THERE'LL BE ANOTHER RAIN-COON MANIA OVER NOW

I COMPLETELY IGNORE THE EVENTS THAT FOLLOW. I THINK I REMEMBER THAT A AND B LEFT THE AREA A FEW DAYS LATER. I NO LONGER KNOW WHAT TIME IT IS AND I CAN NO LONGER REALLY SAY WHAT YEAR THIS EPIC TRANSPIRED.

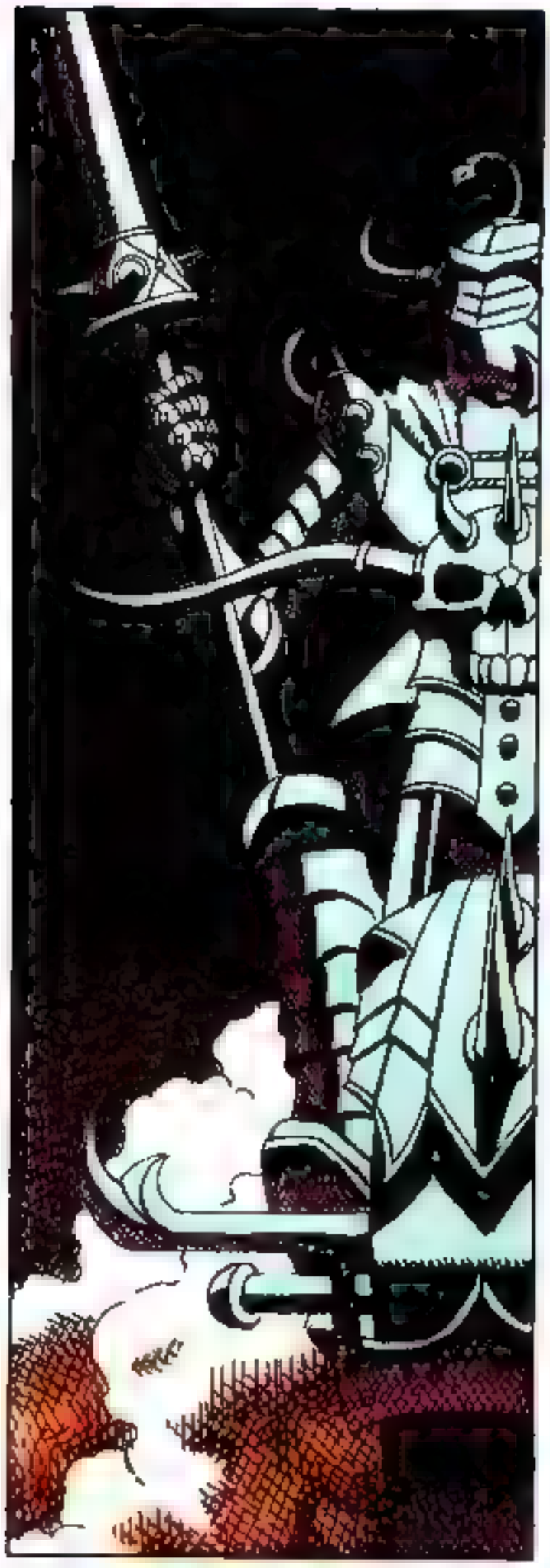
THE END

STORY AND ART NICOLE CLAVELOUX



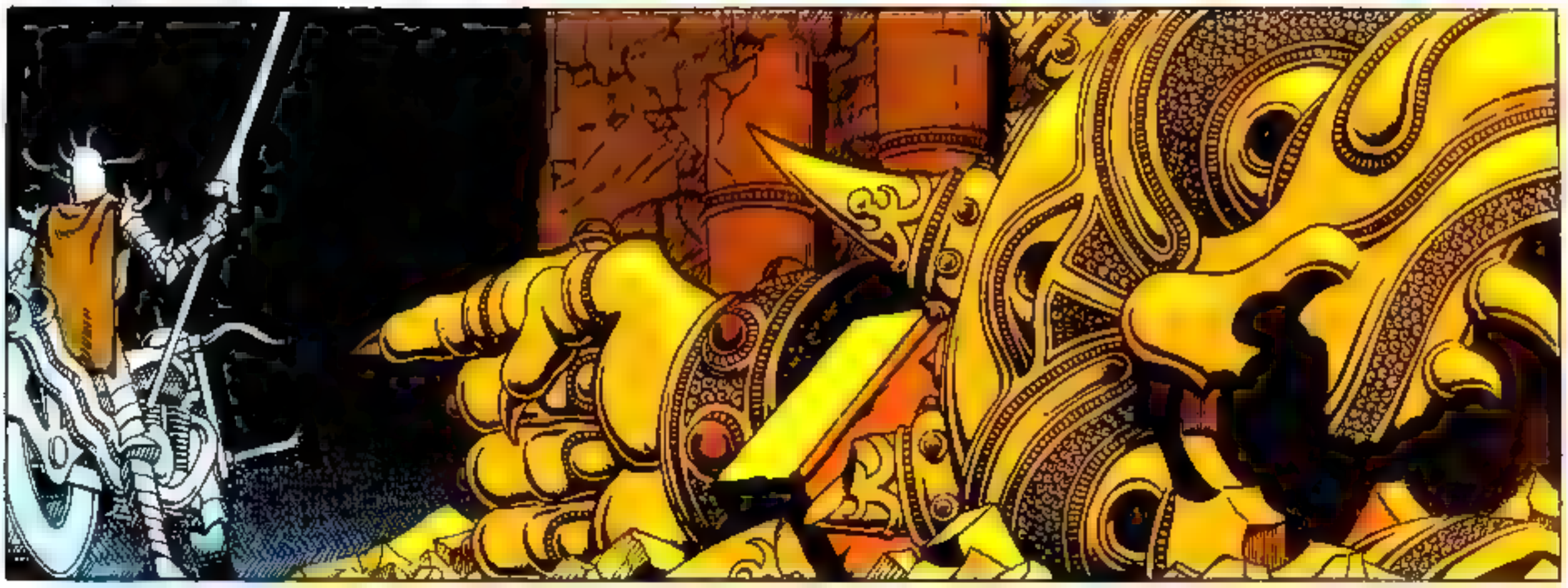


TAROT

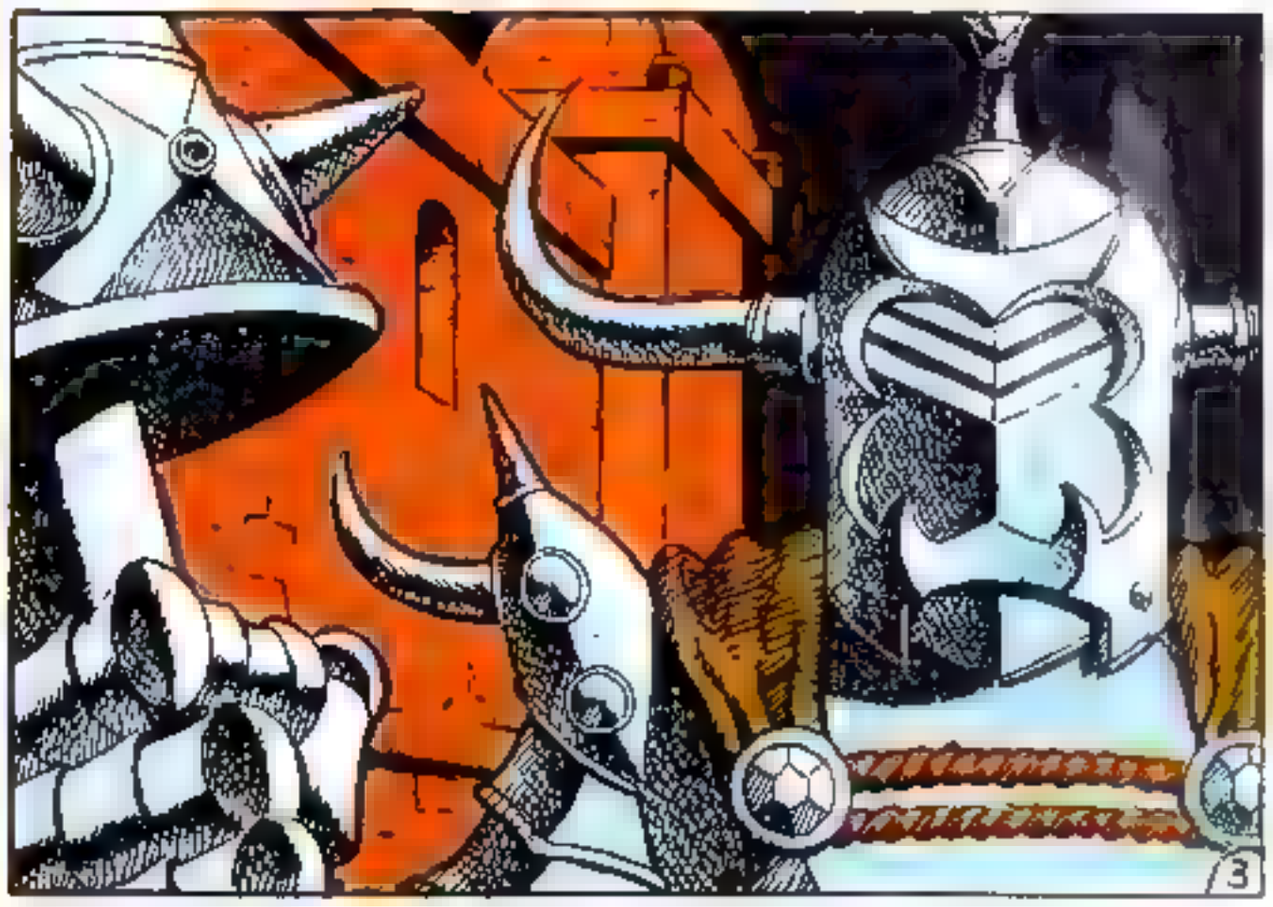


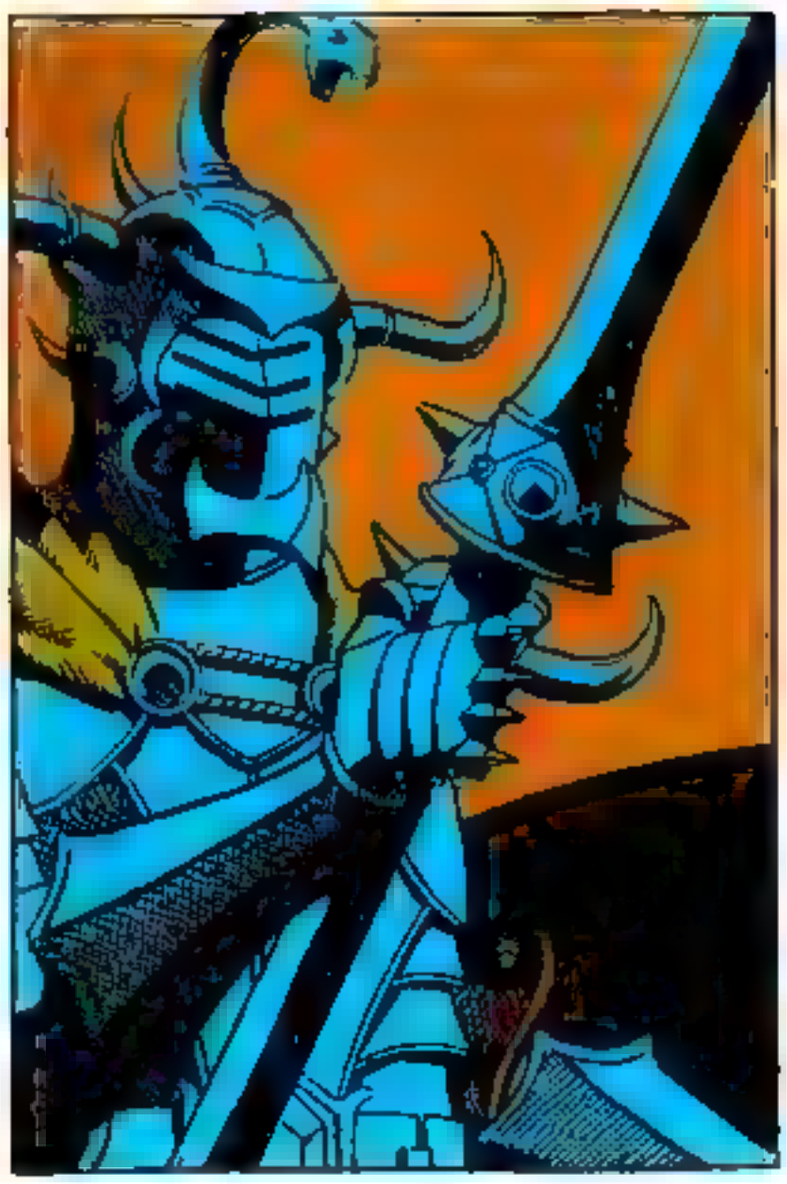
PAUL KIRCHNER ©1977

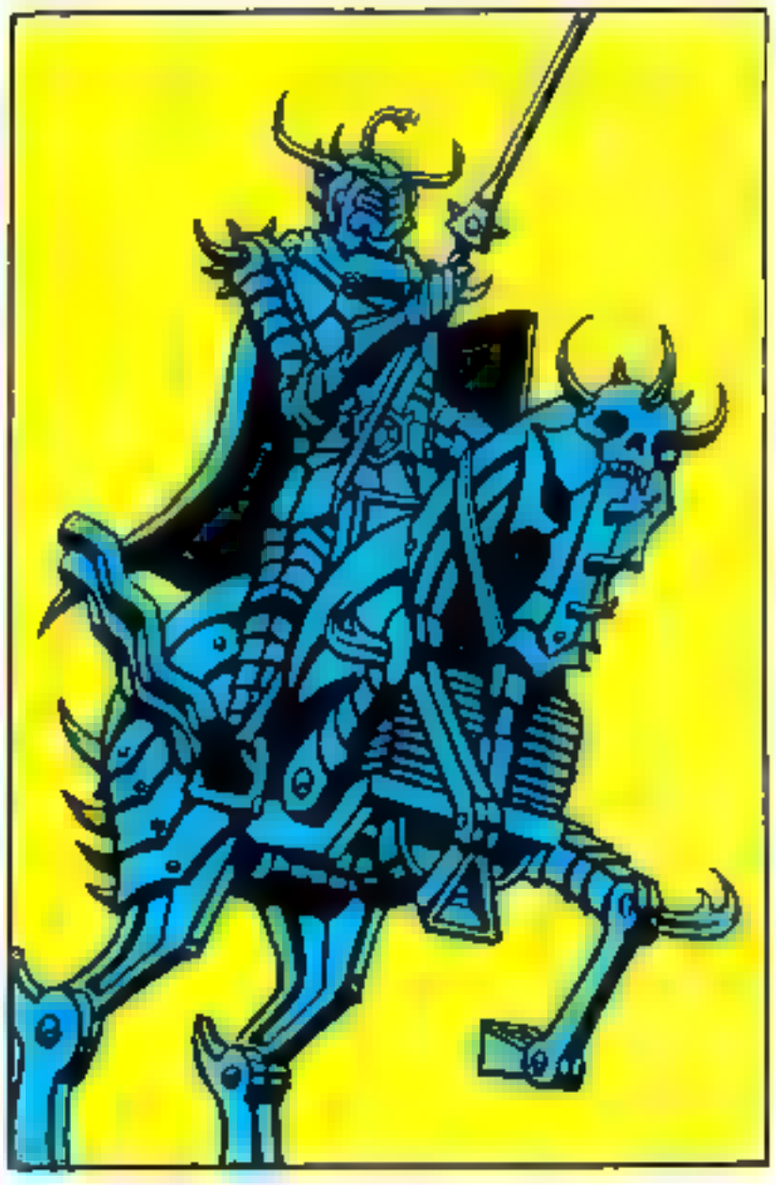
A JOURNEY THAT BEGAN HALF A WORLD AWAY AT LAST NEARS ITS END... HIGH IN THE MOUNTAINS OF THE LAND WHERE NOTHING LIVES, A RIDER SIGHTS THE FIRST OUTPOST OF RTAZ ...RTAZ... IN TEN THOUSAND YEARS, NO ONE HAS DISTURBED THE DUST OF THE DEAD CITY... THE SCENT OF SORCERY LIES HEAVY ON THE SURROUNDING LANDS, BUT HERE ITS STENCH IS WELL NIGH OVERWHELMING...

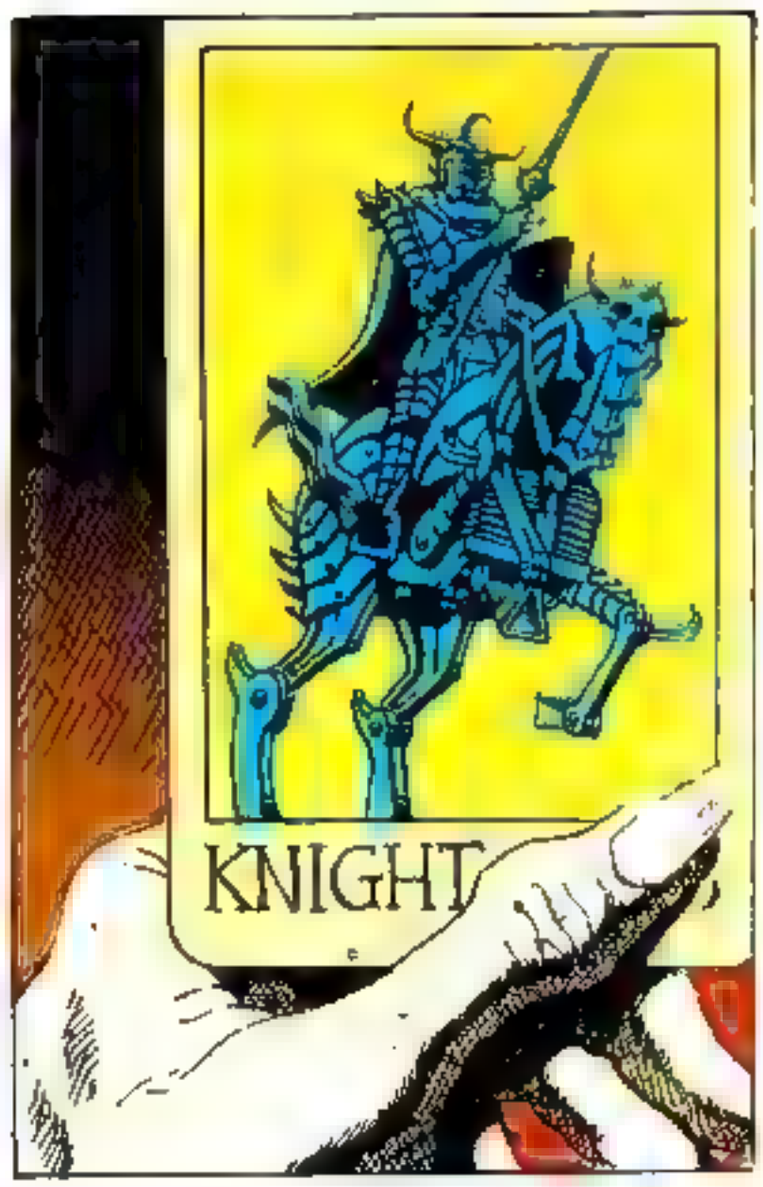


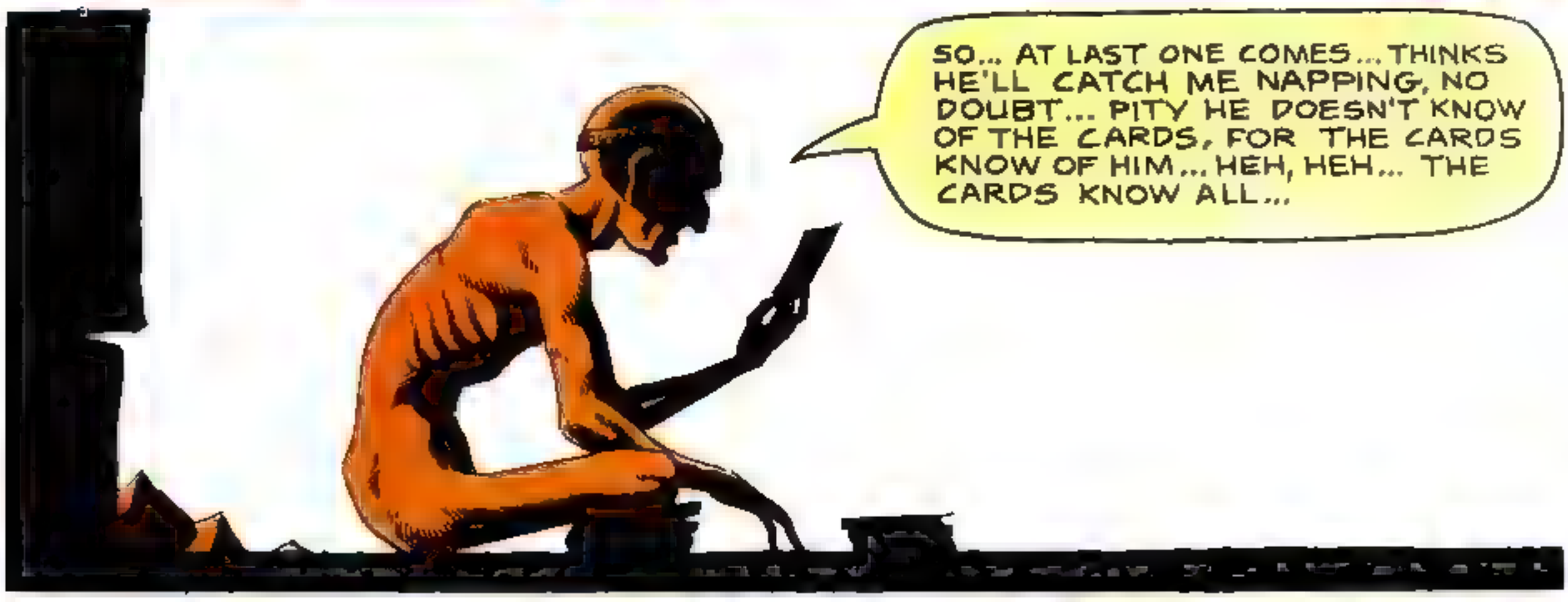
RTAZ... CITY OF LIGHT... ONCE THE SHINING JEWEL OF A PROUD EMPIRE, NOW RETURNING TO THE BARREN ROCK FROM WHICH IT WAS CARVED... VICTIM OF TAROT... COURT WIZARD GONE MAD.

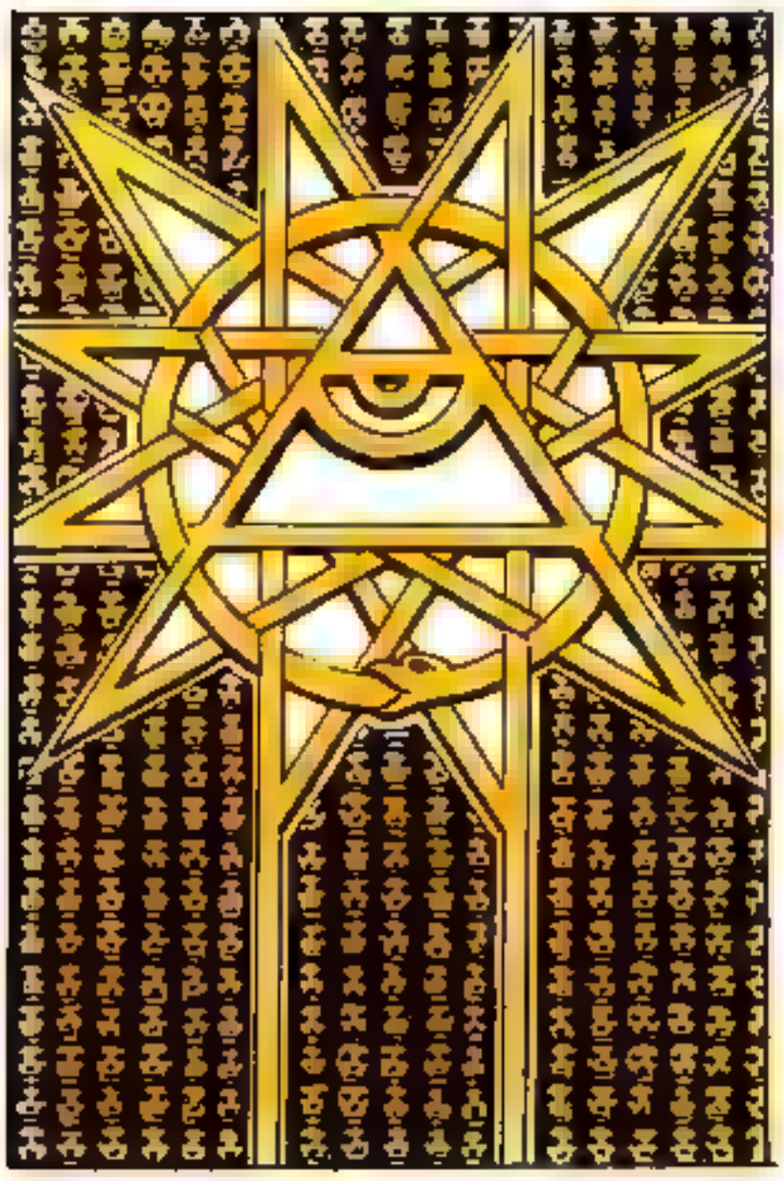


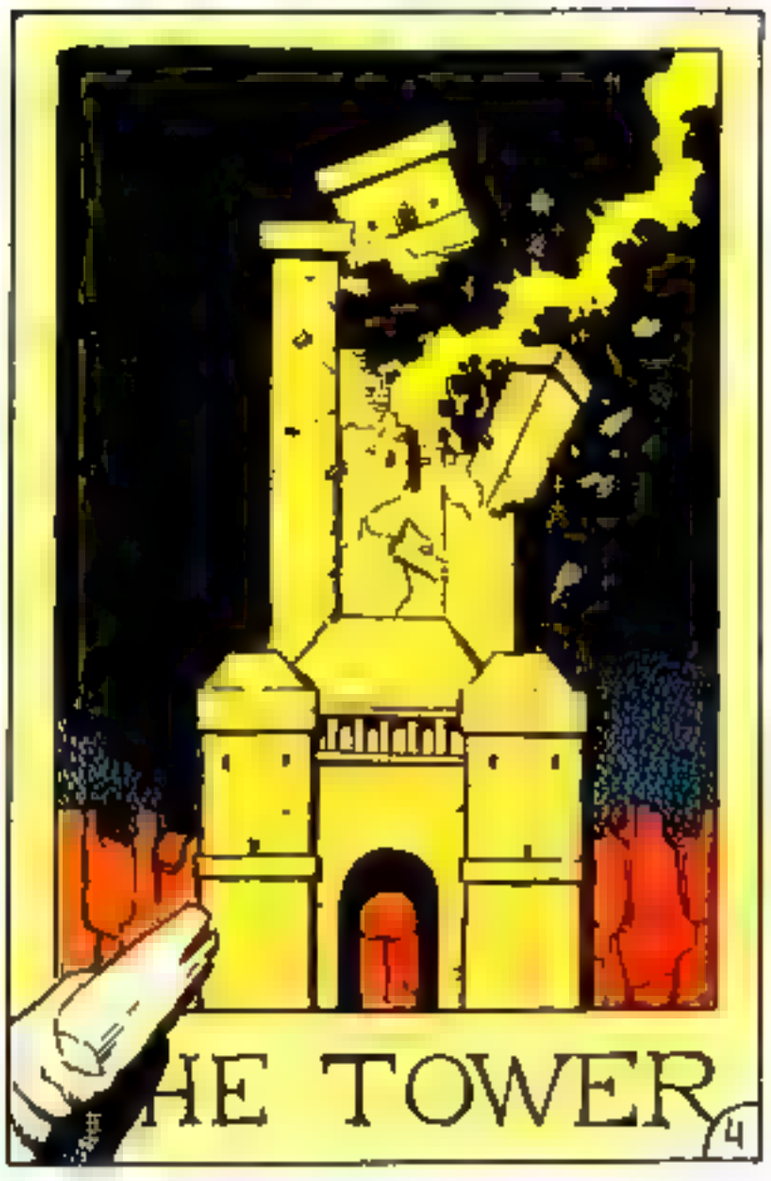


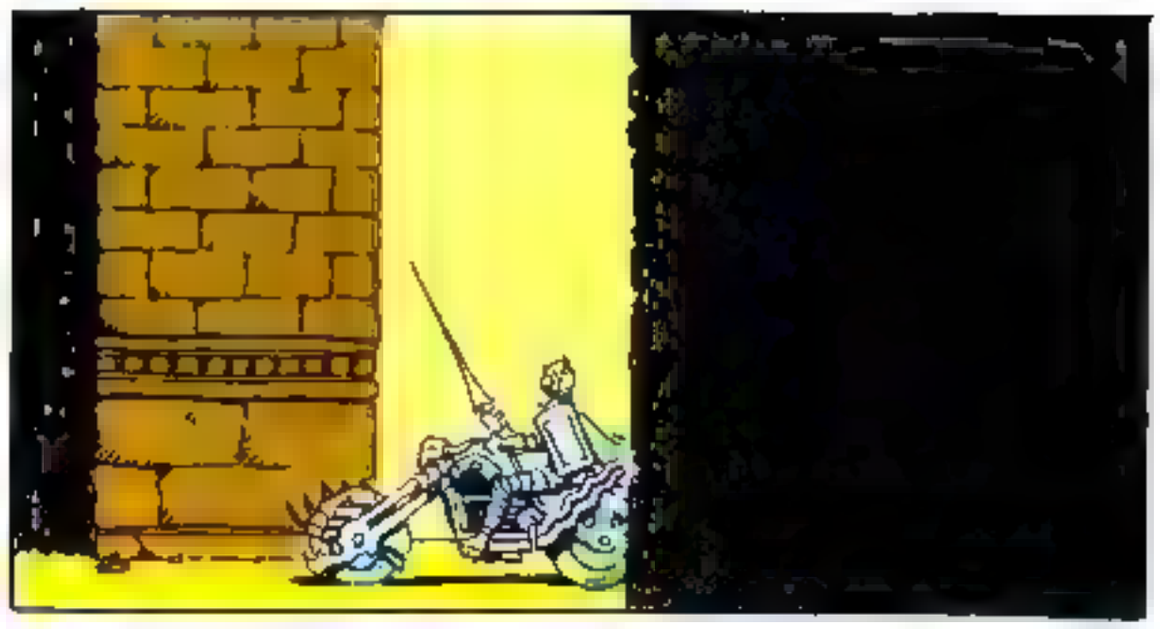


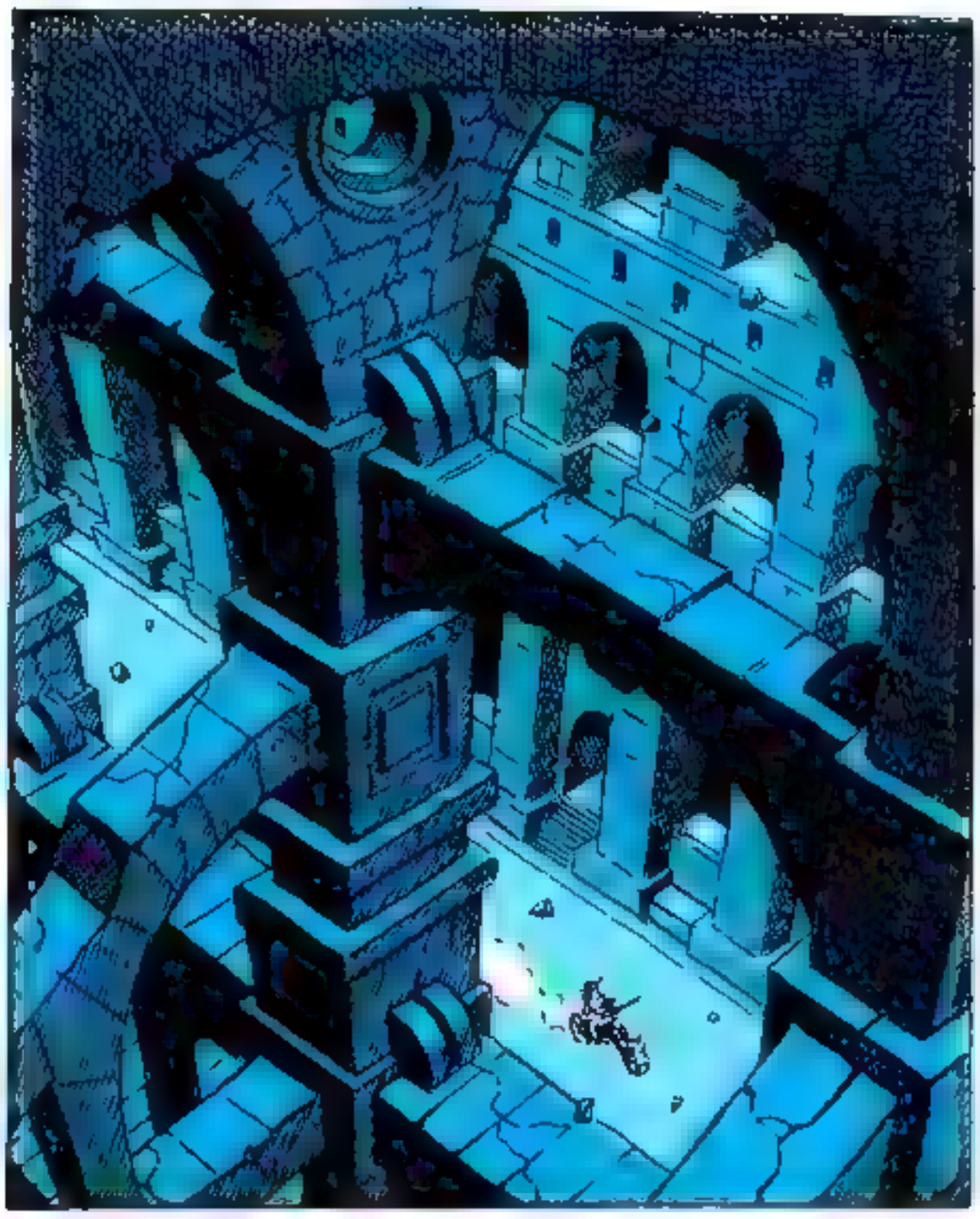

KNIGHT

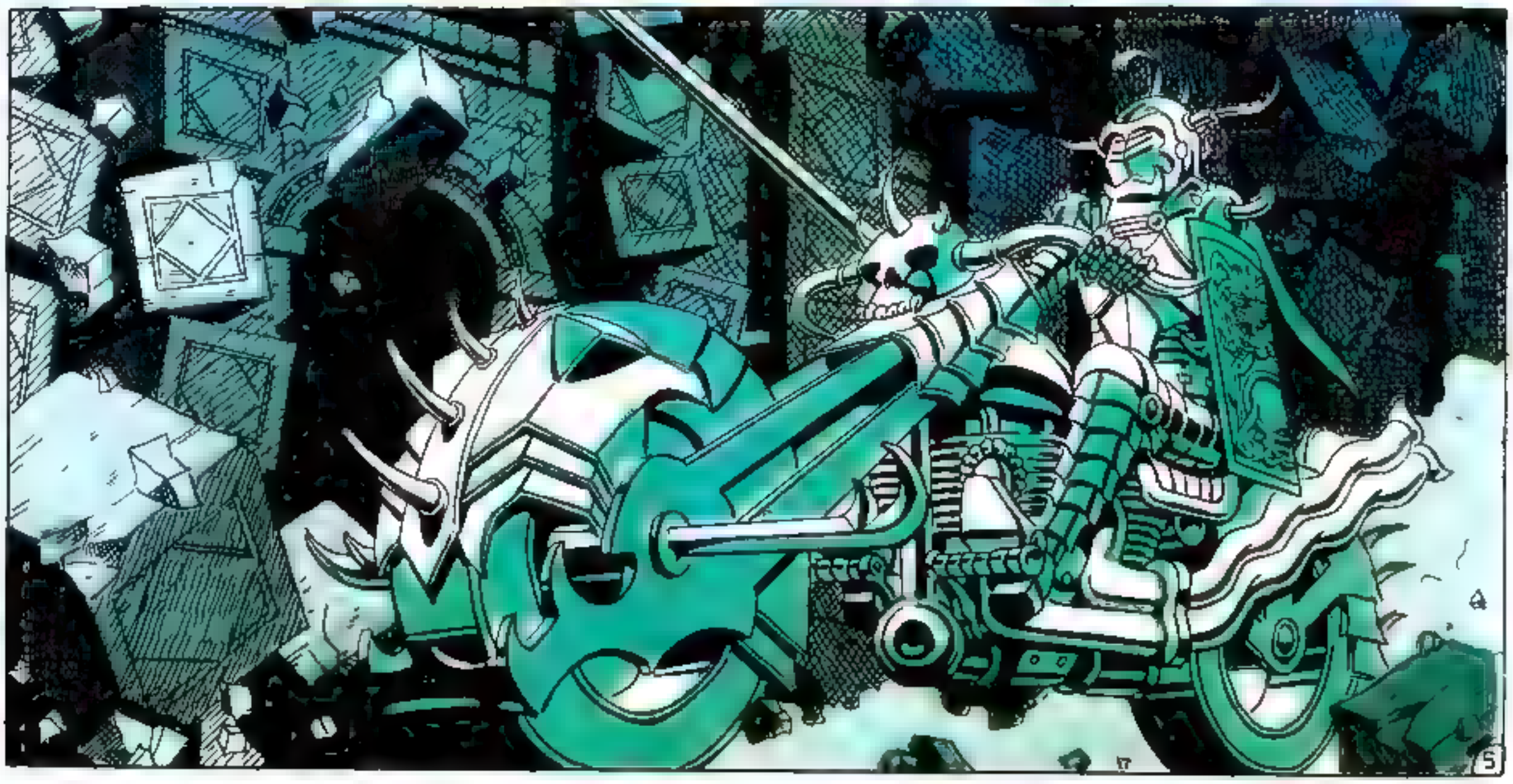

SO... AT LAST ONE COMES... THINKS HE'LL CATCH ME NAPPING, NO DOUBT... PITY HE DOESN'T KNOW OF THE CARDS, FOR THE CARDS KNOW OF HIM... HEH, HEH... THE CARDS KNOW ALL...




HE TOWER
4







WIZARD

CLIK

I KNOW WHY YOU'VE COME... BUT DO YOU THINK YOU CAN KILL ME AS EASILY AS THAT?

BECAUSE I'M MAD YOU THINK I'VE LOST MY POWER, EH?

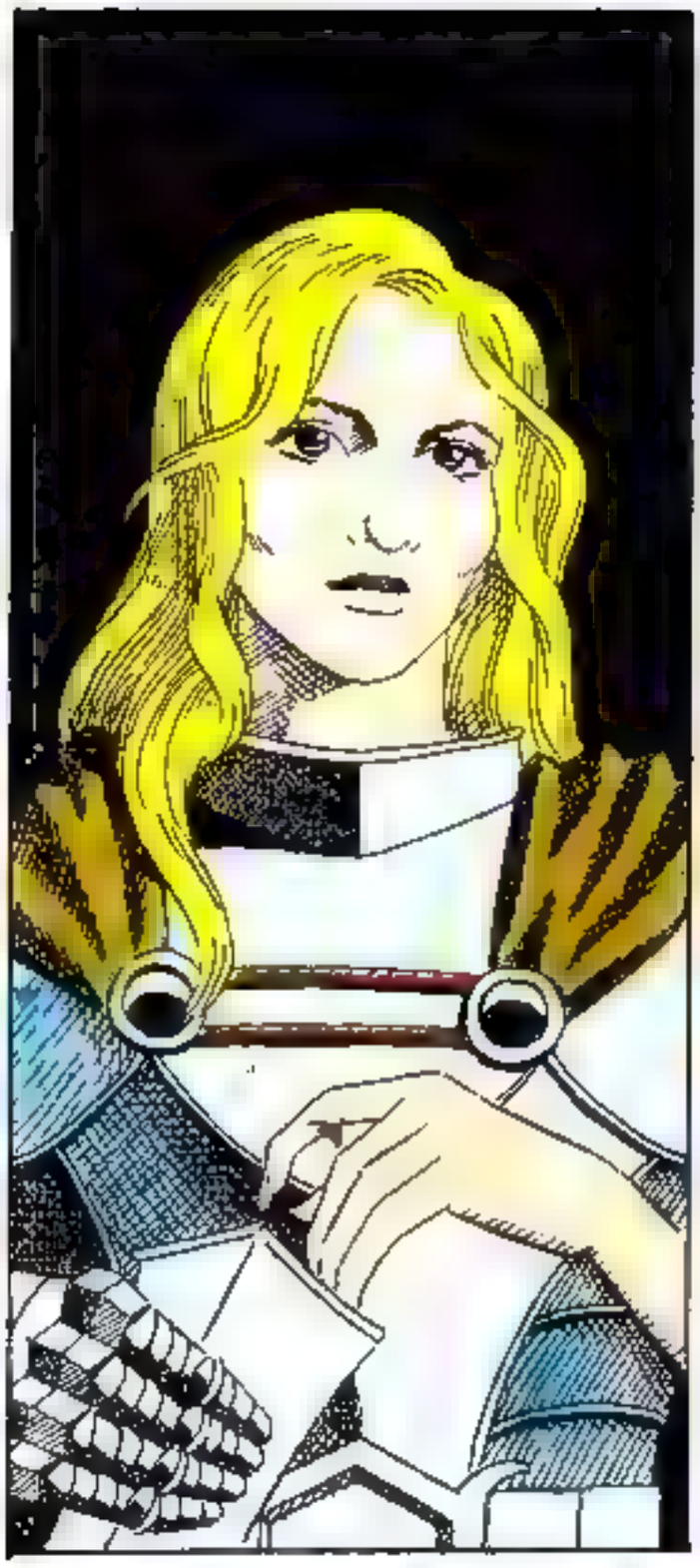
HAH! I'VE ALL THE POWER I HAD WHEN I DESTROYED RTAZ! MORE THAN I NEED TO DESTROY YOU!

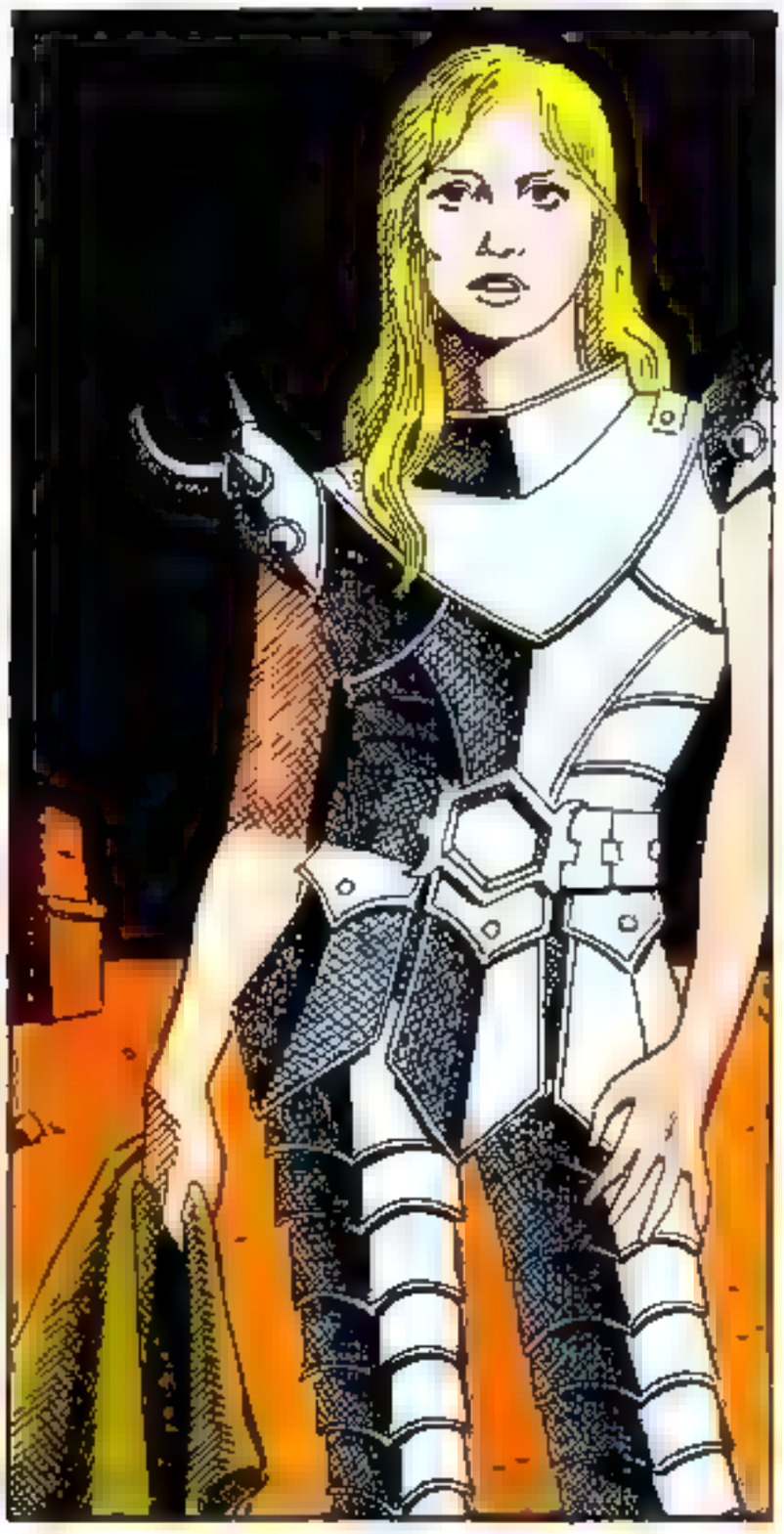
SO!

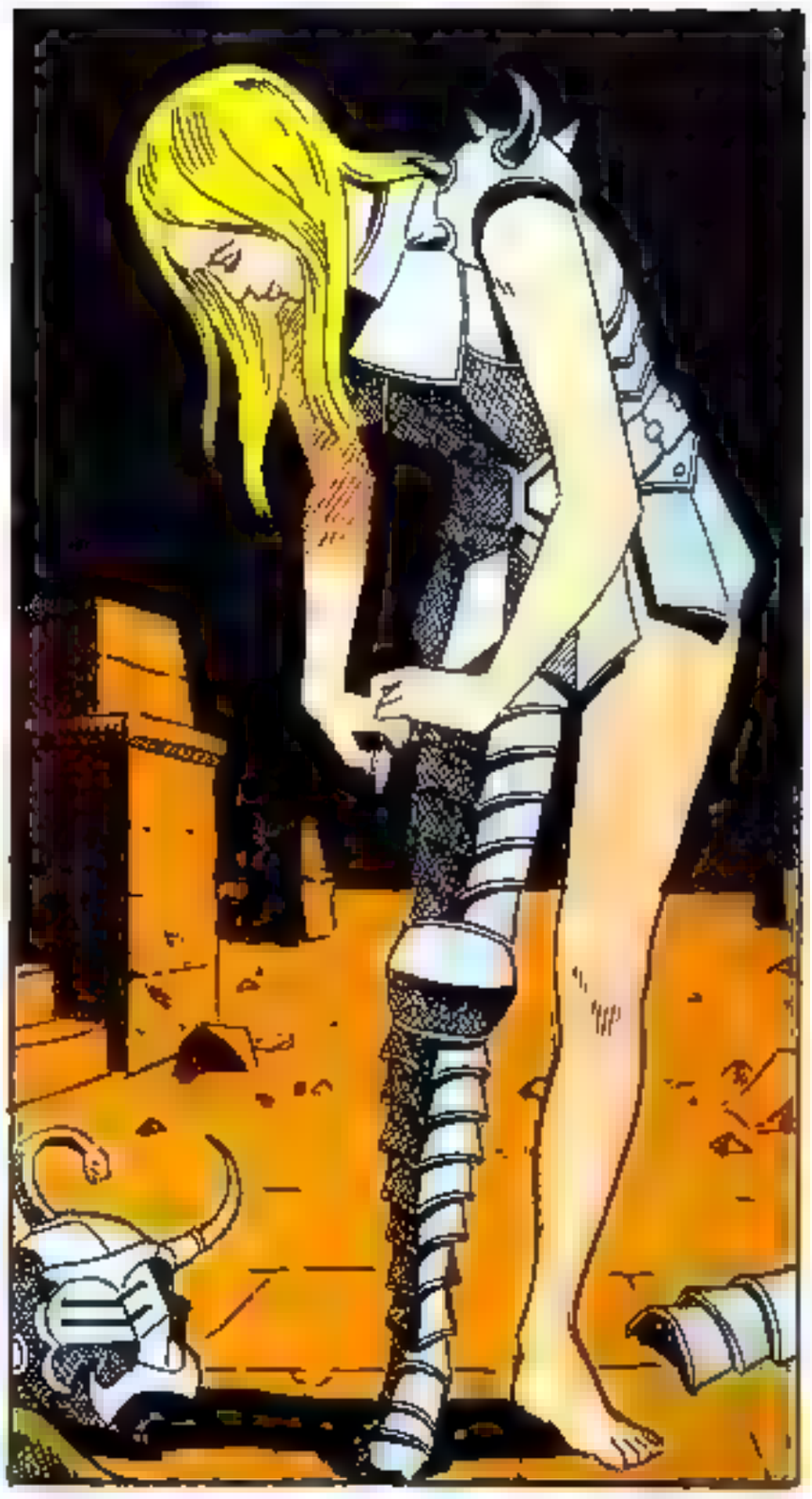
"BUT WAIT... I'M FORGETTING..."

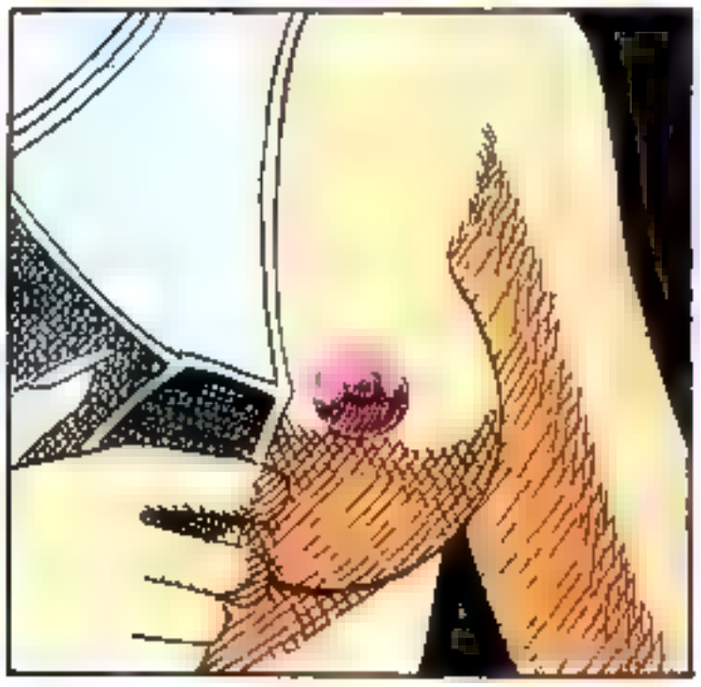
FIRST I MUST DRAW A CARD!

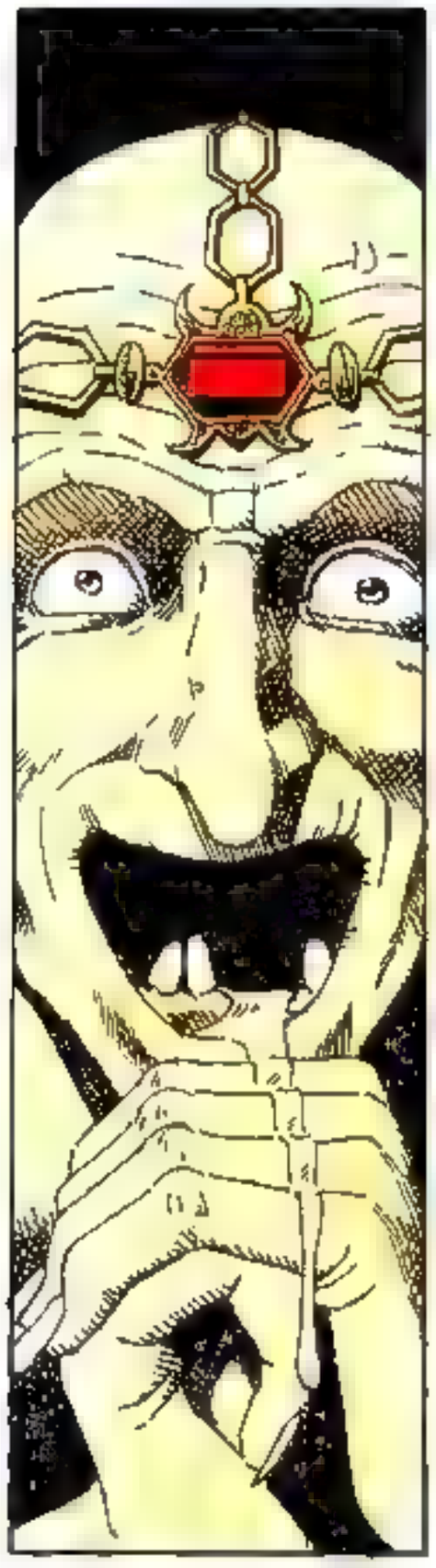
LOVERS

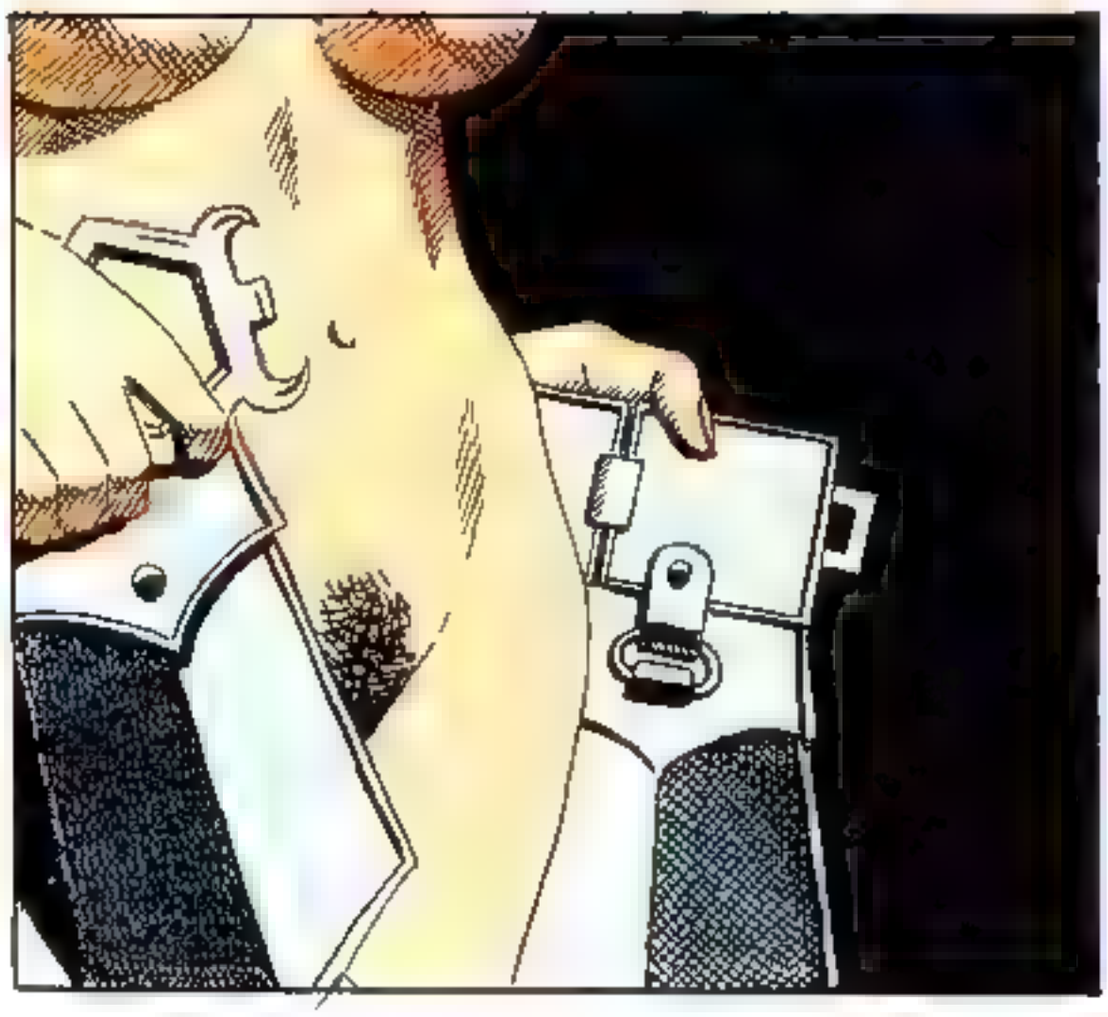


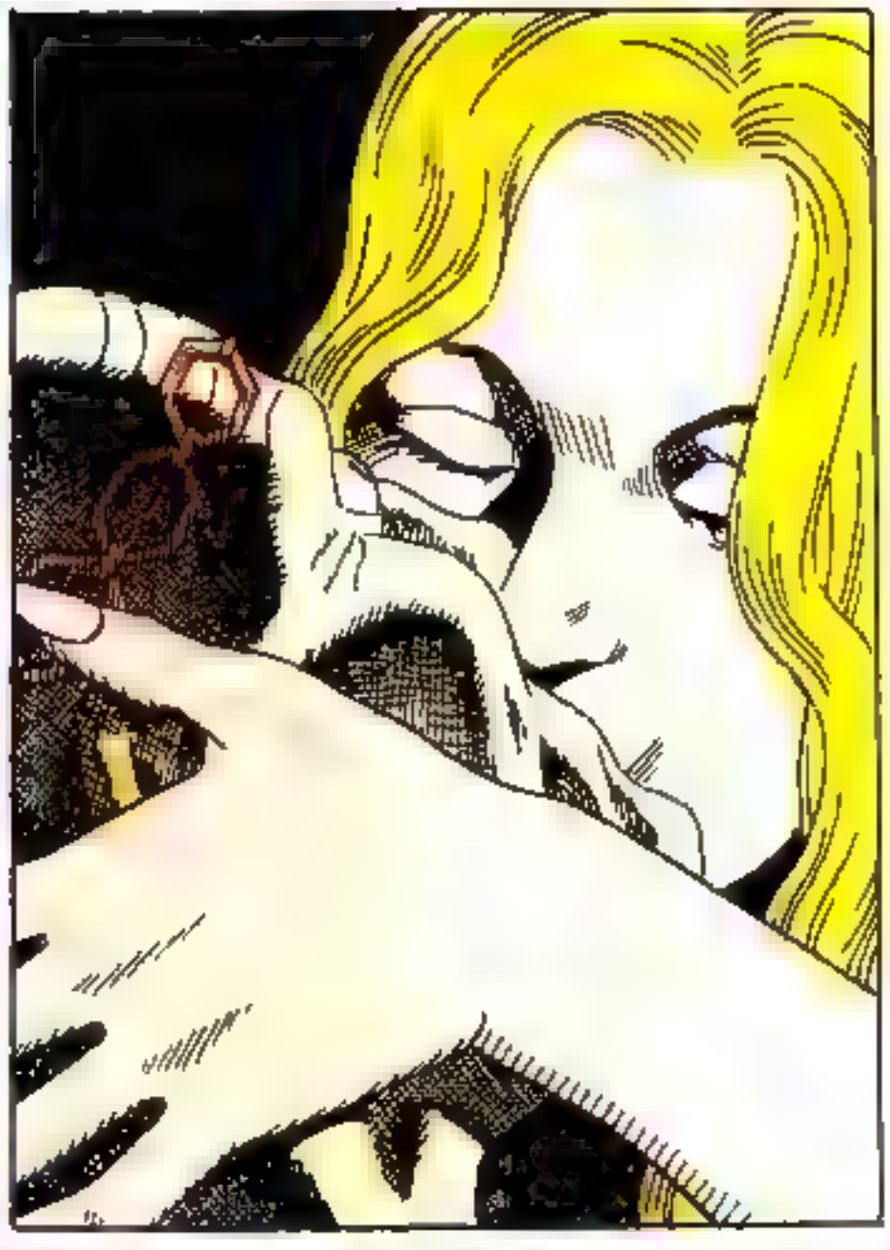


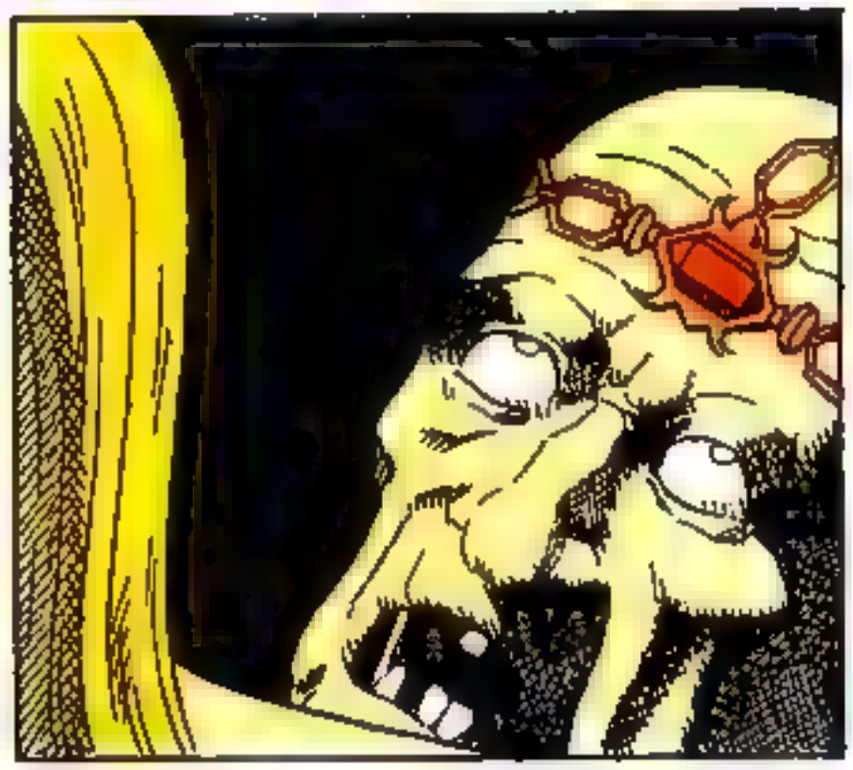












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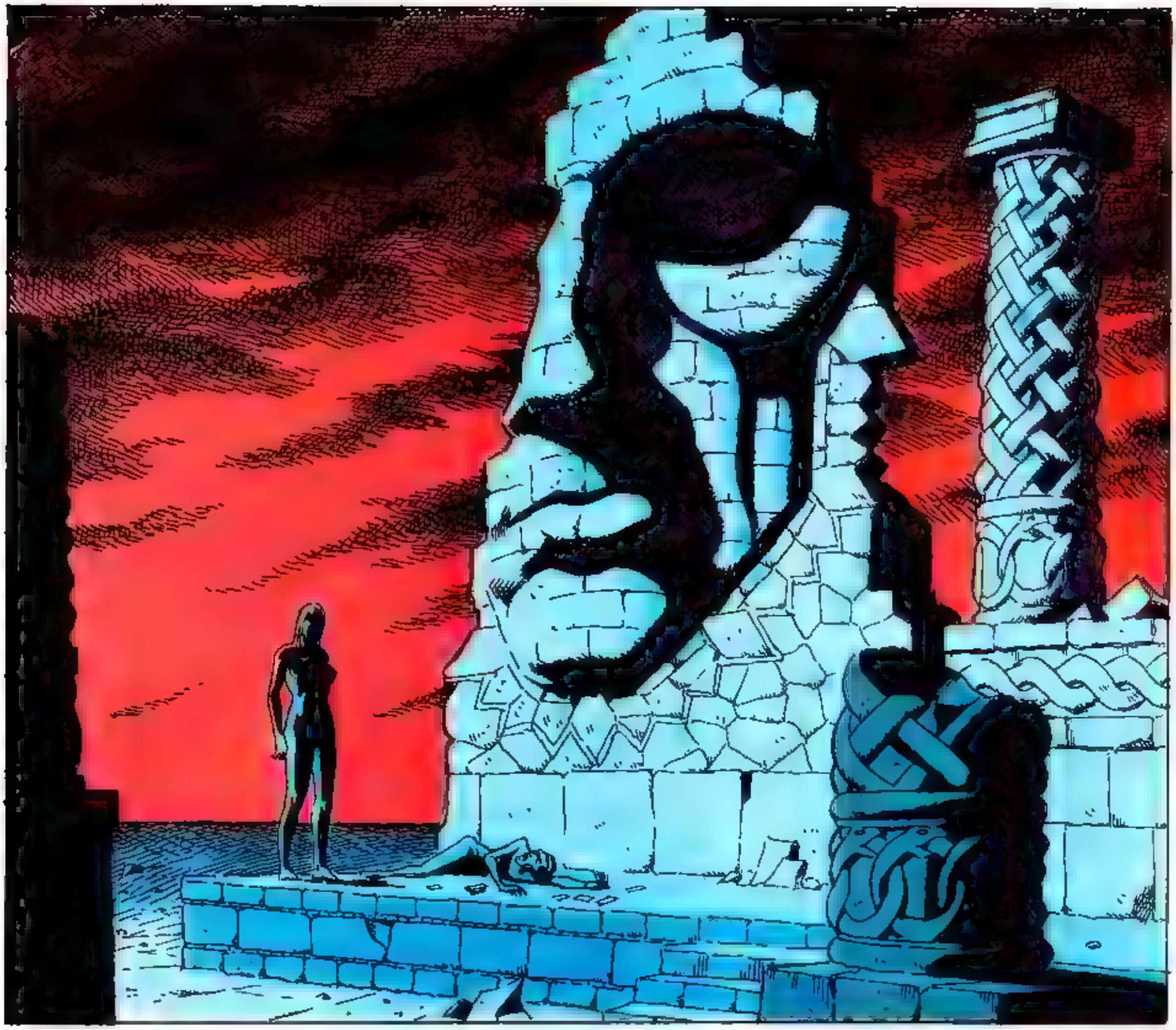

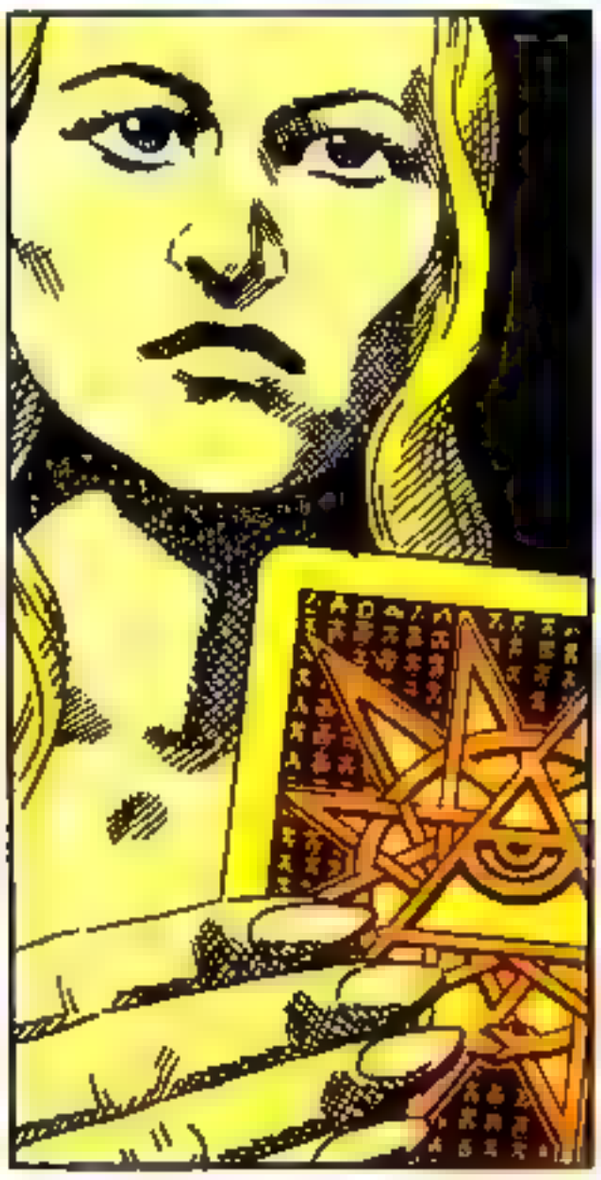

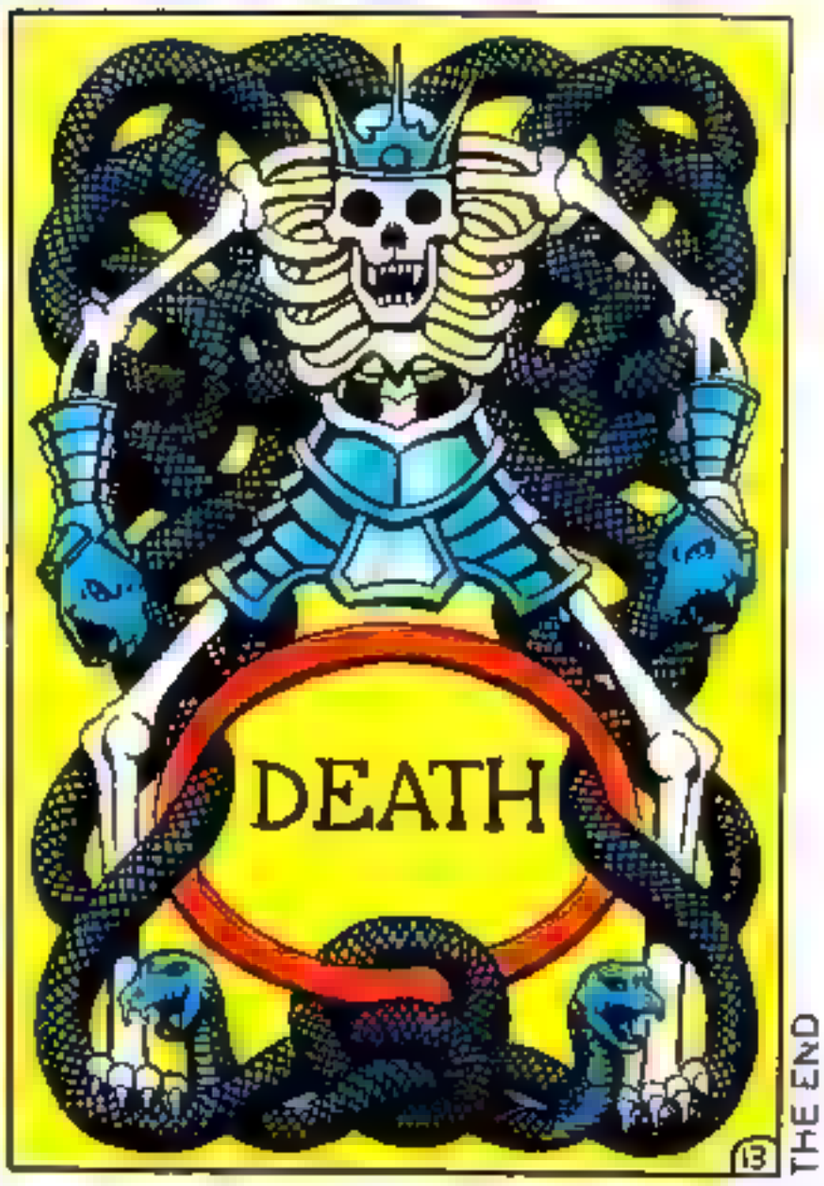

THE END

THE AIRTIGHT GARAGE OF JERRY CORNELIUS BY MOEBIUS

OUR STORY TO DATE:

① THE ENGINEER BARNEY HAS MET UP WITH A MASKED ARCHER IN THE SINGING CAVES..

② MAJOR GRUBERT HAS MET SAMUEL AND HIS FIANCEE IN THE "VIENNAX" CLUB IN THE HOLOG OF ARMJOLRTH.

THE FIRST AND SECOND LEVELS ARE CONTROLLED BY SOMEONE CALLED CORNELIUS

SFFKS

AND THE THIRD? WHAT ABOUT THE THIRD LE.

THEY'VE FOUND ME.. AND KILLED ME!

SAM!

STOP HIM! HE'S AN ASSASSIN!

NO! LET ME GO!

MOEBIUS

THAT'S BLOOD!

GO GET THE SUIT-CASE BACK! I'LL TAKE CARE OF SAMUEL!

SHIT! SHIT!

ALL RIGHT! WE'LL MEET EACH OTHER IN FRONT OF THE CENTRAL TRANS-MITTER OF THE HOLOG AT THE YELLOW GALLERY!

TANG

MY POOR FRIEND!

YOU SAID IT!

THE WEIGHT OF THIS LITTLE SUITCASE IS INCREDIBLE!.

DEAD!

MAJOR!.. MAJOR GRUBERT!..

TO BE CONTINUED...

The colored lights and frequent electrical fires attract a certain Primitive Animal.

To the sound of electronically reproduced music, he searches for food.

♫ Joy to the world! The lotus hum! ♫

These are faded pine needles

♫ Lit earth receive ♫

These are fragments of a glass ball.

♫ hugging! ♫

He takes something internally

♫ Lottery odds rip hair in Rome! ♫ [repeat]

but is nauseated by the idea of his organs in this light.

A crowd gathers as he regurgitates the decoration

♫ In evident nature sing! ♫

He goes to graze at the burial place of Thomas Alva Edison

♫ In evident nature sing! ♫

Ben Katchor 1978

SO BEAUTIFUL AND SO DANGEROUS

EPISODE III . MANKIND HAS TAKEN A GIANT LEAP

I'M BORED!
WE'VE ONLY BEEN IN SPACE FOR THREE DAYS. YOU SHOULD ALWAYS..
YEAH, YEAH, YEAH, I KNOW! LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP! THANKS FOR THE ADVICE. NOW FUCK OFF
THE EARTHMEN ARE BECOMING SOMEWHAT BITCHY, SISYPHUS
YES THEY JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH THEMSELVES WHEN THERE ARE NO TVs OR PINBALL MACHINES AROUND
I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE ER SOMETHING BEGINNING WITH P!
PLANET
AW SHIT! I GIVE UP!
HOLD ON! NOW IT'S MY TURN I SPY WITH MY LITTLE EYE SOMETHING BEGINNING WITH
..T!

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WOWEEE! WILLYA LOOK AT THE SIZE OF THEM!

ARE THEY REAL?

THEY MUST BE STATUES OR SOMETHIN.

I CAN ASSURE YOU, GENTLEMEN THEY ARE REAL. THESE CREATURES ARE THE SIRENS OF TITAN AND I ADVISE YOU NOT TO GAZE TOO LONG.

WHY? THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL.

PRECISELY.

I WANDERED LONELY AS AN INTERSTELLAR DUST CLOUD, AMONG A HOST OF GOLDEN CEPHEID VARIABLES.

HEY MAN, WHERE YOU BEEN? YOU MISSED ALL THE FUN

DO YOU REALIZE, THAT ACCORDING TO $E=MC^2$, THE UNIVERSE IS FINITE AND YET UNBOUNDED!

FINITE YET UNBOUNDED, YEAH! THAT'S EXACTLY HOW I'D DESCRIBE THESE TITS.

AND THAT ACCORDING TO THE SECOND LAW OF THERMODYNAMICS, THE UNIVERSE IS MOVING IRREVOCABLY TOWARD A STATE OF COMPLETE RANDOMNESS, LACKING ANY ORDER, PATTERN, OR BEAUTY.

BEAUTY! YEAH! THAT'S ONE THING THEY HAD PLENTY OF, I'M TELLIN YOU

AND THAT THE HEAT DEATH OF THE UNIVERSE IS INEVITABLE!

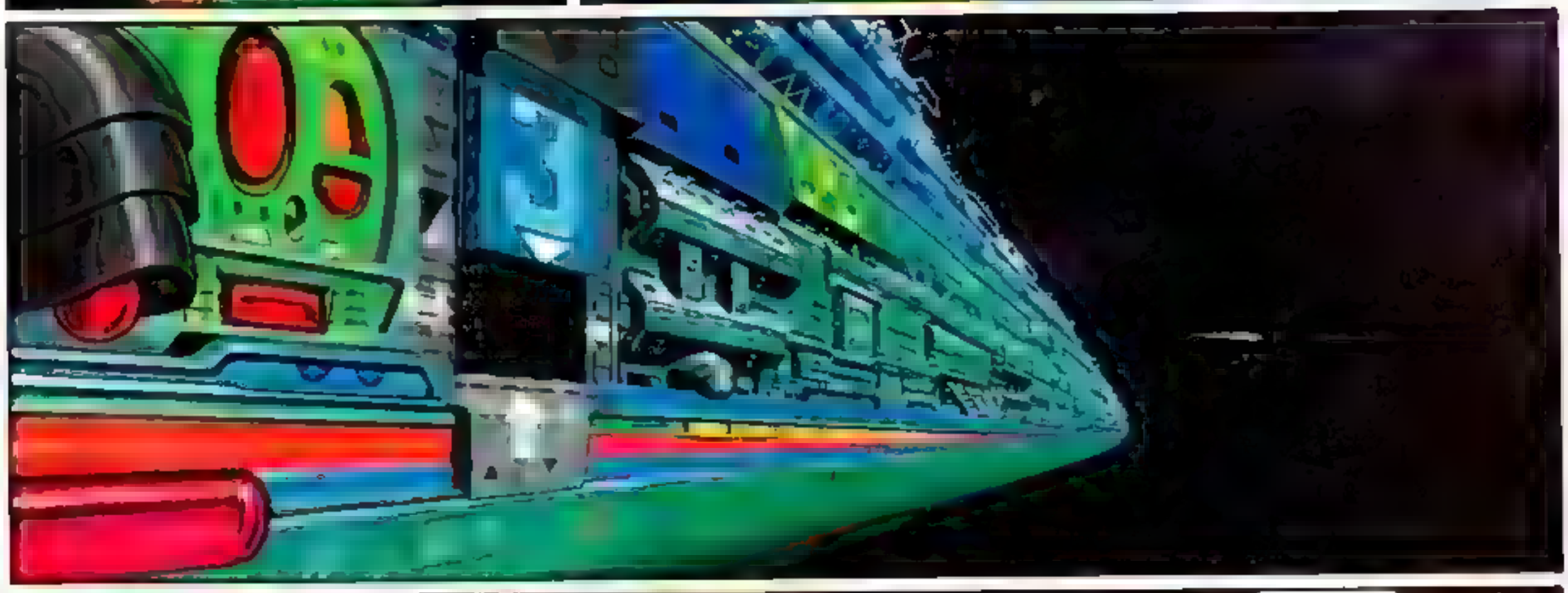
CLASS CAL SYMMETRY AND CERTAINTY HAVE COLLAPSED ALONG WITH THE DETERMIN ST ETHIC

MAN'S PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE IS NO LONGER *SAFE.*

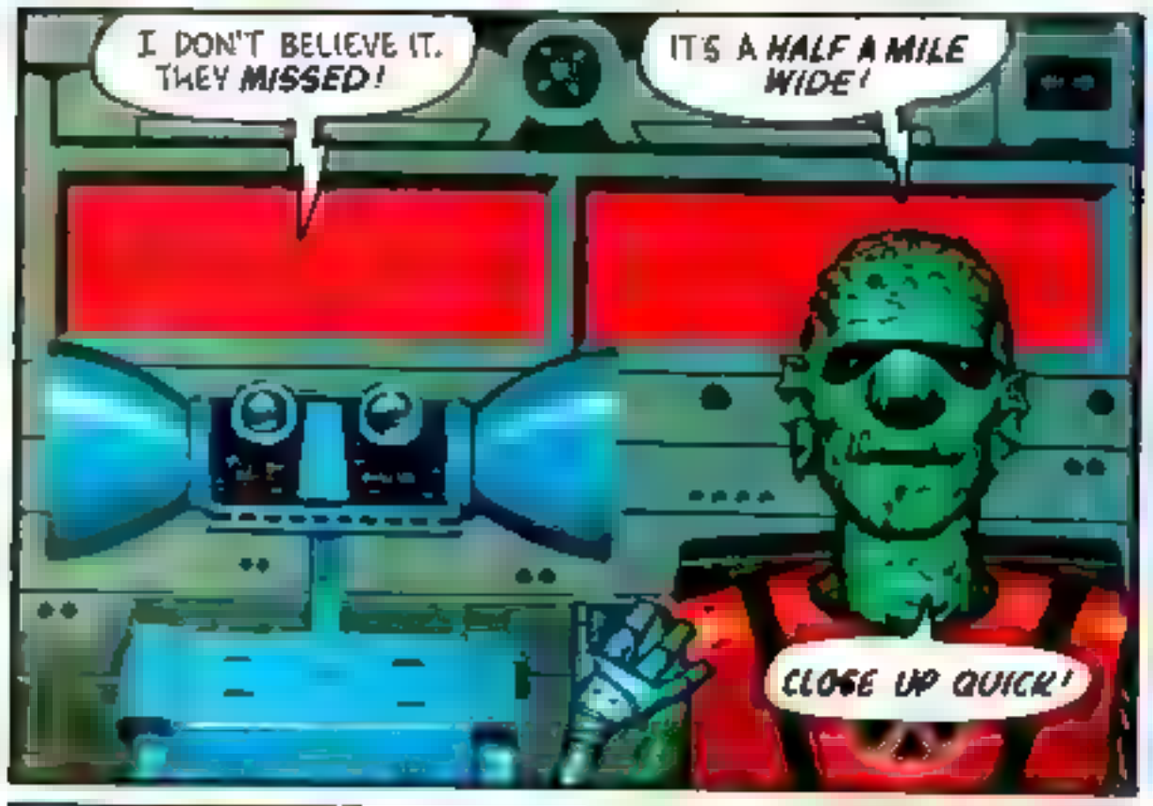
WOW! YOU BEEN SEEIN TOO MANY BERGMAN MOVIES I'M GOIN BACK TO SEE IF I CAN CATCH A PARTING GLIMPSE OF THOSE FABULOUS BOOBS

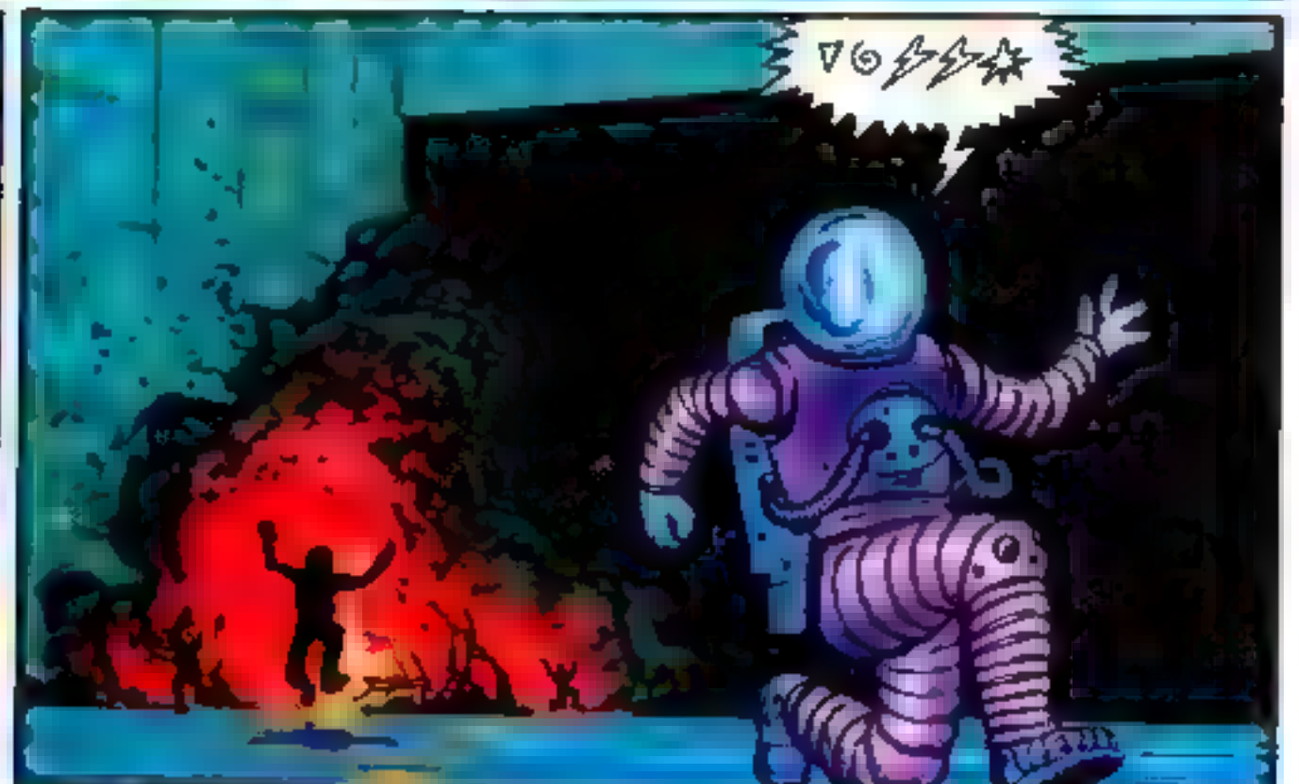
THERE'S A TRACE ON THE SCOPE SISYPHUS IT'S A FLATBACK COMING IN PARABOLIC TO POINT THREE

OKAY LET IT RUN OPEN UP AND GUIDE THEM IN



GYPP☆


I DON'T BELIEVE IT. THEY MISSED!
IT'S A HALF A MILE WIDE!
CLOSE UP QUICK!


V6PP☆

THEY RE R.GELLIANS I MIGHT HAVE KNOWN
DO YOU SPEAK ENGLISH? WHAT HAPPENED?!
YOU TELL ME! WE THINK THE PILOT WAS HIGH ON RADIOACTIVE VIBROS, BUT HE SAYS HE WASN'T!
THE CRAZY BASTARD!
VV☆@☆P
P@☆

HEY! WHAT IS THIS?! HOW COME SO MANY ALIENS SPEAK ENGLISH?!

EVERYBODY SPEAKS ENGLISH THESE DAYS SON.

I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL THO' I CAN RECALL THE GOOD OLD DAYS TWO OR THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, WHEN IT USED TO BE FRENCH.

EARTH ISN'T THE UNIMPORTANT LITTLE DUST-MOTE THAT YOU EARTHLINGS TAKE IT FOR Y KNOW.

JUST ABOUT EVERYBODY'S VISITED EARTH IN THE LAST COUPLA THOUSAND YEARS. WE EVEN HAD **ONE** CRAZY GUY FROM ANTARES WHO GOT HIMSELF **CRUCIFIED** DOWN THERE

YEAH EXPORTING THE BEST IN TERRAN CULTURE IS A **BIG** INDUSTRY IT'S ALL ON THE **SLY** OF COURSE THE GALACTIC COUNCIL DOESN'T LIKE US GOIN DOWN TO EARTH IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO GET VISAS WE FLY OUR SAUCERS MAINLY AT NIGHT REALLY THOUGHT WE HAD IT ***MADE*** THIS TIME ..

WE MANAGED TO RUN THE BLOCKADE OUT IN RIGEL AND SHAKE OFF THE GOVERNMENT CUSTOMS SHIPS WHEN WE LEFT EARTH WE HAD ABOUT EIGHT TONS OF SAFETY PINS AND BALL-POINT PENS. ***HELL*** THEY WOULD'VE GONE ***WILD*** OVER THEM IN CENTAURI, PAID ALMOST ***ANYTHING*** WE WOULD'VE BEEN ***FABULOUSLY RICH...!***

AND ***THIS*** IDIOT ***BLEW IT!***

▽△⚡☆◎!

▽◎⚡⚡□!

WAP!

BOP!

YOU'RE WELCOME TO REST HERE FOR THE NIGHT CYCLE AND TRAVEL WITH US WE'RE HEADING FOR ***AXIS*** ..

AXIS?.. OH ITS THE CAPITAL OF THE GALAXY ONCE UPON A TIME LONG, LONG AGO.. LOTS OF CONCEITED PLANETARY GOVERNMENTS AT THE HUB OF THE GALAXY ***ALL*** WANTED ***THEIR*** WORLDS TO BE THE HOME OF THE GALACTIC COUNCIL NATURALLY, NOBODY WOULD CONSENT TO ANY ***OTHER*** BUT THEIR ***OWN*** PLANET

SO THEY HAD TO ***BUILD*** ONE

A *VAST* ETERNAL MONUMENT TO *VANITY* AND *VICE*, IT WAS CONSTRUCTED ACCORDING TO CERTAIN ANCIENT PLANS AND MYSTIC DIMENSIONS WHOSE EXACT SIGNIFICANCE WAS TOTALLY *MISINTERPRETED* AND COMPLETELY *MISUNDERSTOOD*. OF COURSE . BUT *MOST* IMPORTANT OF *ALL*, AXIS IS THE HOME OF *THE RAYS* . WITHOUT WHICH GALACTIC CIVILIZATION WOULD BE A *MEANINGLESS TERM*.

FROM EACH COMPASS POINT A RAY EMANATES EACH RAY IS REFRACTED BY A VAST CUT-GLASS CRYSTAL INTO A THOUSAND MILLION SMALLER RAYS THAT ARE THROWN OUT ALL OVER THE GALAXY

IT IS BY VIRTUE OF THESE RAYS THAT TRAVEL OVER DISTANCES INVOLVING MANY LIGHT-YEARS BECOMES A REALITY

SO *THATS* HOW YOU MANAGE IT I WAS *WONDERING*.

THE RAYS CAN'T BE SEEN NORMALLY, UNLESS YOU'VE A PAIR OF SPECIAL GLASSES ALTHO' I *HAVE* HEARD STORIES ABOUT SOME BEINGS ABLE TO PERCEIVE THEM *UNAIDED*. AT CERTAIN POINTS ALL OVER GALACTIC SPACE, THE RAYS ARE FOCUSED BY

BEEP BEEP

ENERGY GATES

FROM WHERE ALL RAYS LEAD TO *AXIS*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IN THE NEXT FORTY-EIGHT HOURS YOU WILL TRAVEL OVER FIFTY THOUSAND LIGHT-YEARS.

THIS CALLS FOR A BIG CELEBRATION

WAKE UP EVERYBODY THE PARTY IS OVER WE HAVE *ARRIVED*.

REMEMBER WE ARE *STILL* A *THOUSAND* MILES AWAY WITHDRAW THE SHIELD, TITAN LET US BEHOLD *AXIS*..

TO BE CONTINUED.

THE DEVELOPMENT OF AN INTERGALACTIC CORPORATION

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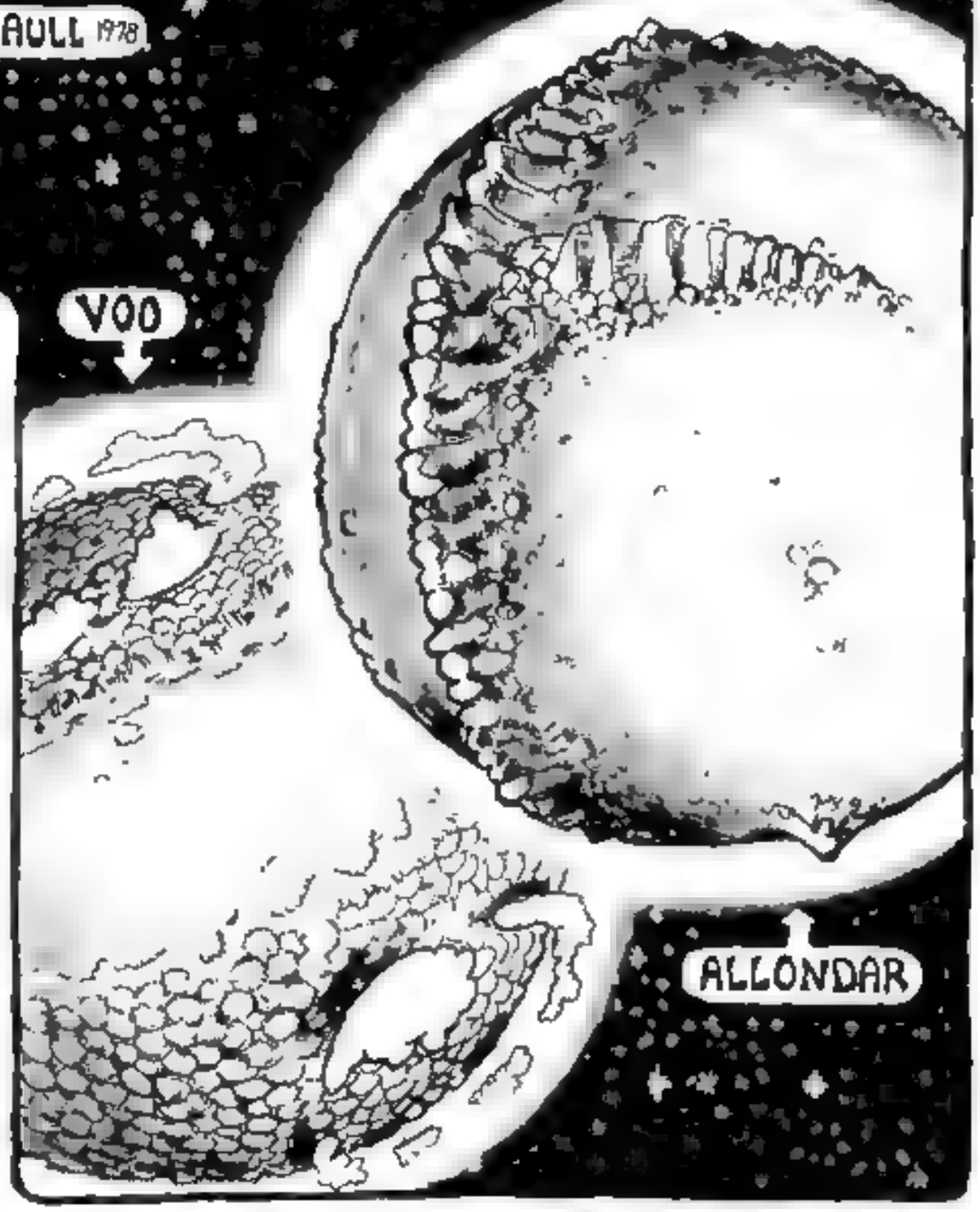
— A TREATISE —

IF ONE TAKES THE TIME TO EXAMINE THE SPREAD OF PEACE AND PROSPERITY THROUGHOUT THE GALAXY, THIS FACT SOON BECOMES EVIDENT: THE EXPANSION NEVER COULD HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT CONSTANT INVESTMENTS AND DEVELOPMENT BY THE INTERGALACTIC CORPORATIONS...

AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE GROWTH OF A COMPANY COMPLEMENTED THE GROWTH OF THE EMPIRE CAN BE FOUND IN THE HISTORY OF THE PEEGE (PRONOUNCED PEE-GEE) CORPORATION...

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED MULTI-PLANETARY REPUBLICS IN THE DEMOCRATIC GALACTIC UNION HAD JUST ENTERED INTO A TRADE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE PRIMITIVE SOCIETIES ON TWO RECENTLY DISCOVERED PLANETS... VOO AND ALLONDAR...

...THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE INFANT COMPANY SAW THIS AS A CHOICE OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH...



WHEN THE PEEGE COMPANY FIRST BEGAN DOING BUSINESS WITH THE NATIVES ON VOO AND ALLONDAR, IT WAS FINANCIALLY UNSTABLE AND COUNTING ON ITS SALES TO THE TWIN WORLDS TO PULL IT OUT OF THE RED...

THE LUSH TROPICAL JUNGLES OF VOO AND THE DESERT ENVIRONMENT ON ALLONDAR OFFERED A PERFECT MARKETPLACE FOR THE SALE OF PEEGE'S MAIN PRODUCT— SMALL TRACKED CRAWLERS. SINCE THE NATIVES HAD YET TO DEVELOP ANY FORM OF SELF-PROPELLED VEHICLES, THEY COULD BE EXPECTED TO VIEW THE LITTLE "TANKS" WITH NOTHING SHORT OF AWE!...

...(UNDERDEVELOPED PLANETS ALSO TRADITIONALLY OFFER THE BEST PROSPECT FOR MAXIMUM PROFITS DURING COMMERCIAL EXPLOITATION)

...IN RETROSPECT, THIS CAN BE SEEN TO HAVE BEEN A VERY SOUND BUSINESS INITIATIVE BY THE YOUNG COMPANY'S TRUSTEES...

AFTER A FEW **DEMONSTRATIONS** TO THE VOOIAN NATIVES OF THE **SUPERIORITY** OF **MACHINES** TO THE **PACK ANIMALS** THEY WERE USING, THE PEEGE FACTORY COULD **HARDLY KEEP UP** WITH THE FLOW OF **ORDERS** ...THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES, REALIZING A **UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY** WHEN THEY SAW ONE, QUICKLY CONCENTRATED THE FULL **TRUST** OF THEIR **SALES DIVISION** ON THE NEW CONSUMERS. ...THEIR **SUCCESS** IS **LEGENDARY!** IN ONLY A FEW SHORT **MONTHS, TENS** OF **THOUSANDS** OF VILLAGES HAD PURCHASED CRAWLERS (OIL AND MINERAL RIGHTS WERE THE USUAL MEDIUM OF EXCHANGE)... ...THE COMPANY WAS PLANNING TO ERECT A GIANT **PRODUCTION** FACILITY ON A **CHOICE** PIECE OF ITS NEW **PROPERTY**, BUT **CONSTRUCTION** WAS HALTED WHEN AN **UNFORESEEN** PROBLEM DEVELOPED: THE **NATIVES' CRAWLERS** WERE BEGINNING TO **BREAK** DOWN!...(USUALLY AFTER THE THIRTY-DAY WARRANTY HAD EXPIRED).

...TRADE RELATIONS **DISINTEGRATED** ENTIRELY AFTER AN UNSUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT TO SELL THE **ENRAGED** VOOIANS ON **NEXT** YEAR'S MODEL... (THIS ALSO WAS A **SHREWD** BUSINESS MOVE; **OBSOLESCENCE** REMOVES THE **LIABILITY** OF PRODUCING SPARE PARTS)...

A **RADICAL** GROUP OF NATIVES ACTUALLY STAGED AN ARMED **ASSAULT**, LITERALLY CHASING PEEGE'S SALESMEN OFF THE PLANET!

...**DOZENS** OF CRAWLERS (THE ONES STILL RUNNING) **SWARMED** OVER THE DISTRIBUTOR... THE MILITANT NATIVES **SMASHED** WINDOWS, **BURNED** THE BUILDING, AND THEN CARRIED THE TARRED AND FEATHERED **SCREAMING SALESMEN** TO THEIR SPACESHIP!

... ONE PEEGE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTED TO HAVE SEEN A SORT OF **DEMOLITION DERBY** TAKING PLACE BETWEEN THE REMAINING CRAWLERS AS HIS **SHIP FLED** TOWARD SPACE.

THE COMPANY IMMEDIATELY FILED **MULTIPLE LAWSUITS** WITH THE **GALACTIC COURTS** IN ORDER TO **FORCE** THE VOOIANS TO MAKE FULL **RESTITUTION** FOR **DAMAGES** TO PEEGE PROPERTY...

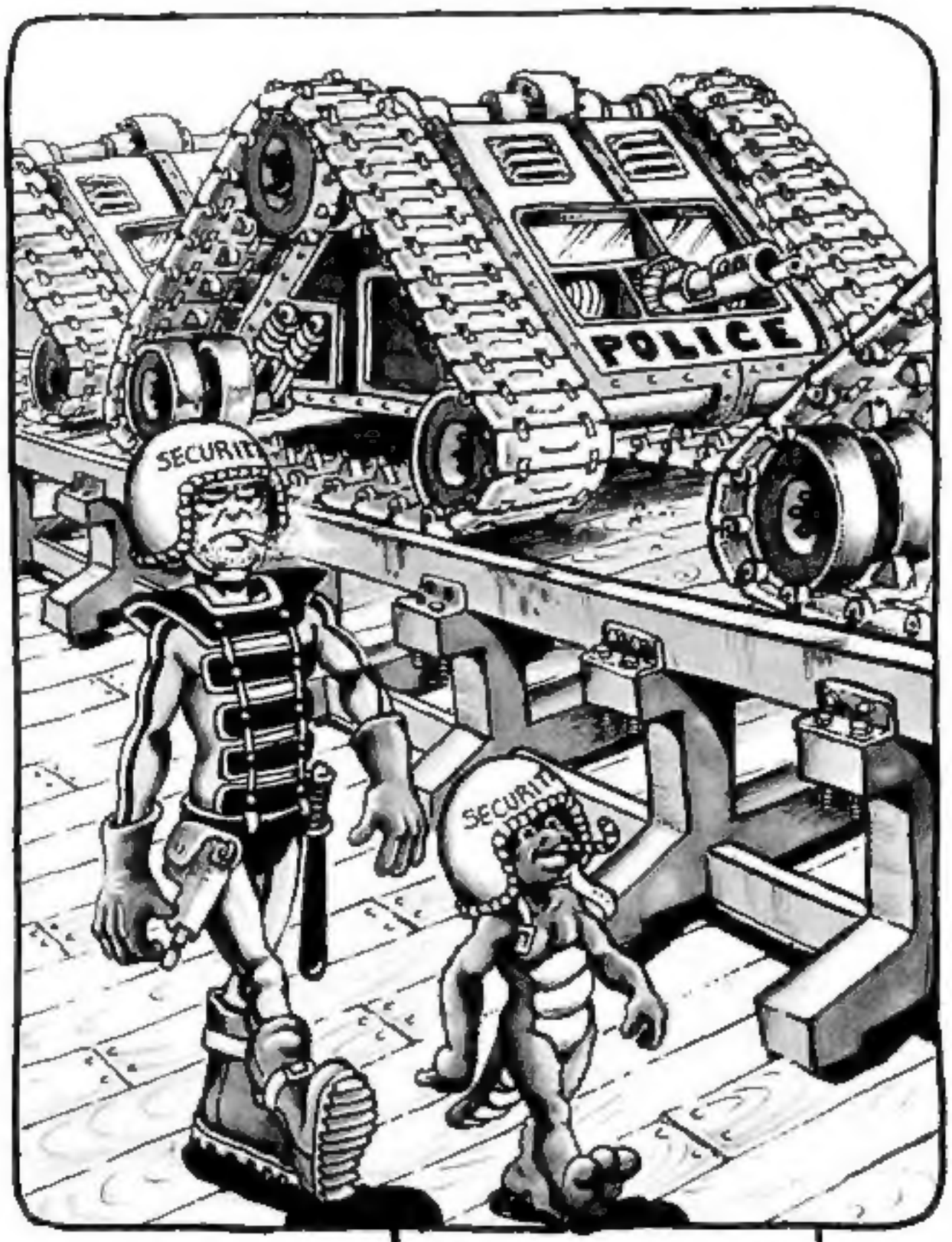
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE **GALACTIC UNION** WAS EVENTUALLY **FORCED** TO SEND VOO A MILITARY **POLICE BATTALION** TO ESTABLISH **LAW AND ORDER** AND **PROTECT** THE PEEGE BUSINESS INTERESTS... AFTER A FEW BRIEF SKIRMISHES, THE VOOIAN **REBELLION** WAS **SUBDUED** AND THE COMPANY WAS ONCE AGAIN **FREE** TO **CONTINUE** DEVELOPMENT...

...THIS WAS A TIME OF **MAJOR** GROWTH! A LOYAL NATIVE GOVERNMENT WAS INAUGURATED AND PROVIDED SUPPORT DURING **EVACUATION** OF SMALL VILLAGES AND FAMILIES LIVING ON PEEGE PROPERTY...

...A MODERN **PRODUCTION** FACTORY WAS CONSTRUCTED TO MAKE USE OF THE **ABUNDANCE** OF NATURAL RESOURCES...

... THE **POLICE** ACTION ON VOO HAD VERY **BENEFICIAL** SIDE EFFECTS... IT ENABLED THE COMPANY TO MAKE **VALUABLE CONTACTS** WITHIN THE **DEPARTMENT** OF **DEFENSE**...

...SOON AFTER THE NATIVE REVOLT **SPREAD** TO **ALLONDAR**, PEEGE RECEIVED ITS **FIRST MILITARY CONTRACT** (FOR CONSTRUCTION OF A POLICE RIOT TANK)...



VOOIAN HEAD OF STATE INSPECTING A SHIPMENT OF POLICE RIOT CRAWLERS

NIGHT ASSAULT BY ALLONDAR GUERRILLAS

...HOWEVER, IT SOON BECAME **APPARENT** THAT **RESTORING** ORDER AND **PROTECTING** THE PEEGE PROPERTY ON **ALLONDAR** WOULD PROVE TO BE TOO MUCH FOR A **SIMPLE POLICE ACTION**...

...THE NATIVES WERE EXTREMELY **INGENIOUS** AND SUCCEEDED IN **RAISING** GUERRILLA WARFARE TO THE LEVEL OF AN **ART FORM**... TO THIS VERY DAY GALACTIC **COMMANDERS** ARE **ASTOUNDED** BY THE MARVEL OF AN ENTIRE PLANETARY POPULATION **MOBILIZING** VIA THE **BONGO DRUM** METHOD!

...IN FACT, THE **RESISITANCE** WAS SO **STRONG** THAT DESPITE THE CONTINUOUS **EFFORTS** OF PEEGE REPRESENTATIVES (WHO LOBBIED DAY AND NIGHT AT THE GALACTIC SENATE), THE RESOLUTION TO BEGIN **FULL-SCALE** MILITARY OPERATIONS PASSED BY ONLY **ONE VOTE!**

THE **ALLONDAR** REVOLT TURNED INTO ONE OF THE **LONGEST** AND **BLOODIEST** WARS IN HISTORY... SLY TRAPS, POISON ARROWS, AND CARNIVOROUS **BEASTS** TRAINED TO **KILL**, ALL HAMPERED THE EFFORTS OF THE MILITARY TO RE-STORE THE PEACE...

AS THE **INTENSITY** OF THE WAR INCREASED, THE PEEGE COMPANY (ACTING AS PRACTICALLY THE SOLE SUPPLIER OF THE ALL-OUT MILITARY OFFENSIVE) EXPANDED AND PROSPERED...

...THE WEALTH OF CHEAP MATERIALS IT OWNED ON VOO, PLUS THE PROXIMITY OF THE TWO PLANETS, ENABLED THE COMPANY TO **UNDER-BID** ALL **COMPETITION** FOR THE **DOZENS** OF RICH **DEFENSE CONTRACTS** THAT WERE FINALLY NEEDED TO BRING THE WAR TO AN **END**...PEACE WAS NOT **RESTORED** TO THE EMBATTLED LITTLE PLANET FOR ALMOST TWENTY YEARS...BY THAT TIME, UNFORTUNATELY, THERE WAS VERY LITTLE OF THE **ORIGINAL** SURFACE LEFT **INTACT**...

STRIP MINING DURING CONSTRUCTION OF THE ALLONDAR MONUMENT.

...**REGRETFULLY**, THE JOINT EFFORTS BETWEEN PEEGE AND THE MILITARY TO MAKE THE **SURFACE** OF ALLONDAR **HABITABLE** AGAIN **FAILED**... BUT, SO THE **MEMORY** OF THOSE WHO HAD DIED WOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN, THE COMPANY **GRACIOUSLY** OFFERED TO TURN THE SCORCHED PLANET INTO A **MONUMENT** AGAINST WAR FOR ALL TIME...

...THE GALACTIC GOVERNMENT GAVE ITS APPROVAL AND **DONATED** THE PLANET TO PEEGE IN HONOR OF ITS UNENDING **HUMANITARIAN** EFFORTS IN HELPING THE 23 NATIVE **SURVIVORS** OF THE BLOODY WAR (THE COMPANY FINANCED THEIR TRANSPORT TO VOO AND HELPED THEM ESTABLISH HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE LIVES BY PROVIDING ASSEMBLY-LINE JOBS FOR THE POOR REFUGEES)...

...IT IS ALSO AN INTERESTING NOTE THAT THE FREE **SURPLUS** OF RAW MATERIALS **REMOVED** DURING THE **CONSTRUCTION** OF THE MONU-MENT EVENTUALLY **PROVIDED** THE **EDGE** THE COMPANY NEEDED TO BECOME THE **LARGEST** SUPPLIER OF **MILITARY HARDWARE** IN THE GALAXY!!

...AND NOW, LESS THAN A DECADE AFTER THE WAR'S END, THE PLANET VOO HAS BECOME A PROSPEROUS TOURIST COMMUNITY AS WELL AS HOUSING THE VAST PRODUCTION FACILITIES OF THE PEEGE CORPORATE EMPIRE...

THE NATIVES NOW ENJOY A MUCH IMPROVED STANDARD OF LIVING, AND THEIR MANY QUAINT CRAFTS AND OLD-FASHIONED METHODS HAVE ADDED TO THE ATTRACTION VOO HOLDS FOR THE GROWING TOURIST TRADE... IN FACT, THE HUGE CONGLOMERATE OF NATIVE HUTS (ON THE RESERVATION DONATED TO THEM BY THE PEEGE CORPORATION) IS EVEN SAID TO BE THE SINGLE BEST SHOPPING CENTER FOR HOMEMADE PRODUCTS IN THE ENTIRE GALACTIC UNION!...

...OF COURSE, THE MAIN ATTRACTION IS THE MAGNIFICENT MONUMENT THAT PEEGE CARVED FROM THE REMAINS OF ALLONDAR ... A GREAT TRIBUTE TO THE BEGINNINGS OF CIVILIZATION ON THE UNDERDEVELOPED PLANETS...
...AN ANCIENT SYMBOL REVIVED AND GIVEN A NEW CHANCE TO SPREAD ITS MESSAGE...

PEACE

BUY FIZZY COLA

STEREO SALE! CRAZY LOU

KRAZY KANINE KIBBLE

FOR RENT PEACE CO.

GETTING VERY NEAR THE END